THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER
Preparation

Choose ONE of the following three categories. Prepare answers for a class discussion. Write your answers in the space provided below. Feel free to bring print-outs from Internet sources stapled to this page, as well, but answer your questions on this page. In addition to typical Internet searches, I would also recommend that you search for your answers using the International Index to Music Periodicals and Grove's American Dictionary of Music.

☐ Origins
1. Who wrote the words to the SSB? On what occasion? Why? Where?
2. Who wrote the melody to the SSB? When?
3. When was the lyric combined with the melody?

☐ Historical & Legal Matters
1. When did the SSB become the national anthem?
2. How was the song used prior to officially becoming the national anthem?
3. Is there an official key to the SSB (that is, by legal statute)?

☐ Performance Practice (for the ambitious student)
1. Find the complete text to the SSB? Is the entire lyric used in singing? How does the lyric affect interpretation?
2. Why should the SSB be performed? When? Where? (Does the venue of the performance affect the interpretation?)
3. Find a recording of the SSB performed in a style typical of the 19th Century. Describe.

As you discover the information that provides answers to these questions, keep in the back of your mind, “How might this affect my interpretation of a performance of the Star Spangled Banner?”