Students were given the prompt: “What advice would you give next year’s students about the best way to analyze music?”

Summary of Responses:
Everyone recognized that there were steps to analysis (even the resistant student 1)

Of 9 responses...
6 mentioned looking for different concepts at different times
5 mentioned listening
3 mentioned coming to class
2 mentioned playing
2 mentioned revising or deepening previous work
1 mentioned asking peers for help (tutors and classmates)

Individual Responses
student 1
show up to class
know how to do music theory
that’s pretty much it
practice

student 2
listen to it a few times, sometimes with the score, sometimes without
mark where things stand out (modulation, etc.)
Roman numeral analysis
listen again and follow along with RN
contextual analysis
listen again
done!

student 3
listen to the piece you are analyzing
show up (ON TIME) to class
give yourself time to spread the work out [as in, do small chunks over many days, I think]
always remember to write the key when writing Roman Numerals
check for accidentals and voice leading errors before you get too far

student 4
find out the key (look for accidentals that either indicate passing tones or leading tones to indicate minor)
circle other accidentals that might be chords out of the key
find Roman numerals
Listen to the song/piece if available? or try to play the chords on a keyboard or piano
Look at sequences, phrase structure, or repeating parts (melody can help recognize when parts come back)
ote what you found/if there's anything worth talking about

student 5
show up to class to understand concepts and have a grasp on how to do the homework
utilize tutors in the piano lab, if/when necessary
listen to the pieces—makes it easier to ID Materials 3 concepts (modulation, tonicization, phrases, sequences, structure)
talk through homework with friends to bounce off ideas and get a better understanding (don’t copy though)

student 6
write out every note name
see where the weak and strong beats are
see what note is in the bass
see if there are accidentals
find the chord
effective if you can’t see the notes right away, otherwise there is probably a quicker way

student 7
start with finding key
break it up into small chunks
select structure chords, take inverted chords into what they would be in root position
after Roman Numeral analysis, look for phrases, sentence structures, etc.
double check work

student 8
listen to the music on Naxos: hear key/sequences/chord progressions
mark on the score while listening
play out difficult chords/sequences
label keys/leading tones/non chord tones
label cadences
mark Roman numerals
finally add contextual analysis and check if you hear these progressions in the music

student 9
The best way to approach analysis is to take it step by step. The first thing to do is to recognize the key. With that begin a Roman Numeral analysis. After that, try to label some kind of progression for example tonic-predominant-dominant-tonic. Then
using that try to decipher the phrasing. Once phrasing is figured out try to see if it fits part of a larger piece for example to figure out if the excerpt is a period or sentence. Even with just this amount of information is enough to make a detailed analysis.