

# Songwriting Checklist

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- Theme
  - A lot of people can relate to the song idea.
  - The song has a unique or fresh approach.
  - The idea of a song is believable.
  - The song doesn't confuse the listener with too many themes or details that don't lead to the hook.
  - The characters are interesting or believable.
- Melody
  - Melody shows good contour, with a distinctive shape.
  - There is verse that would serve as a climactic point for that melody.
  - Verse melody works its way upward, and connects somewhat seamlessly to the chorus.
  - Chorus melody resides a bit higher than the verse melody.
  - Bridge melody (if applicable) is generally higher than the chorus.
- Lyrics
  - Plain, everyday language that connects with average people.
  - Ensure that verse lyrics primarily describe events and situations.
  - Ensure chorus lyrics primarily describe reactions and emotions.
  - Avoid being unnecessarily wordy.
  - There is a memorable title or hook.
  - There is a strong opening line.
  - The lines are concise and every word counts.
- Overall Impact
  - The song has a beginning, a middle and an end.
  - All the verses are strong and non-repetitive.
  - The message is powerful.
  - The song generates emotion.
  - The storyline is good.
  - The song resolves itself to the listener's satisfaction.