

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.