Songwriting Checklist

Is It Ready to Be Set to Music?

Name: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

☐ I have chosen a theme or story for my song. It is: ___________________________

☐ I have written a title. It is: ___________________________

☐ I have written an outline (optional).

☐ I have written at least one verse.

☐ My verses provide the details of my song. One detail is: ___________________________

☐ I have written a chorus.

☐ My chorus communicates the main theme and message of my song.

☐ My title appears somewhere in my chorus.

☐ I have written a bridge (optional).

☐ My song follows a rhyme scheme.

☐ This is my rhyme scheme: ___________________________

☐ The lines in all my verses have approximately five to eight syllables.

  - How many syllables are in Verse 1? _______ _______ _______ _______
    line 1 line 2 line 3 line 4

  - How many syllables are in Verse 2? _______ _______ _______ _______
    line 1 line 2 line 3 line 4

  - How many syllables are in Verse 3? _______ _______ _______ _______
    line 1 line 2 line 3 line 4

☐ Each line in my chorus has approximately five to eight syllables.

  - How many syllables are in my chorus? _______ _______ _______ _______
    line 1 line 2 line 3 line 4
Worksheet

Songwriting Outline

Name: ____________________________ Date: ______________________

1. What is your title? ____________________________________________

2. What is your hook? (It could be the same as your title.)
   _____________________________________________________________

3. What details will you put in your verses to support the theme?
   _____________________________________________________________

Here are some ideas for details; each verse should include only one:

- Specific things you like about your topic
- How you feel about your topic
- What you do with your topic
- How you interact with your topic
- When you first saw your topic
- How your topic changed you
- Physical qualities of your topic
- Someone your topic makes you think of

Create your own. _____________________________________________

Title: __________________________________________________________

Verse 1 topic: _________________________________________________

Hook (in the chorus): __________________________________________

Verse 2 topic: _________________________________________________

Hook (in the chorus): __________________________________________

Verse 3 topic: _________________________________________________

4. Write four lines for each verse and four lines for the chorus. The chorus should include the hook and/or title in at least one line. Remember that each line should have about the same number of syllables (usually between five and eight).