Song-writing in ten steps

paraphrased from the songwriting videos on Ms. Gerrard’s weebly

1. Write about ***what you know***

2. Choose a ***musical key*** to write your song in. “How to Write a Song” specifies how the C Chord (

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Notes*** | C | D | E | F | G | A | B | C |
| ***Chord*** | Major | Minor | Minor | Major | Major | Minor | Diminished |  |
| ***Chords by roman #*** | I | ii | iii | IV | V | vi | vii |  |



3. Write the ***chorus***

4. Write the story that makes up your song. Think beginning, middle, end.

5. Write the ***bridge*** (this can be a departure from the song’s melody)

6. Evaluate and refine the song’s ***rhythm***. Pay attention to the amount of syllables and rhyming nature. Most songs use parallelism in their verses (similar amount of syllables work with the beat) and most rhyme at least half the time (too much rhyming = cheesy, no rhyming = loss of rhythm)

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| --- |
| Verse  Pre-chorus  Chorus  Verse  Pre-chorus  Chorus  Bridge  Chorus |

7. Stay on ***one topic***

8. Choose your ***structure***. If you’re starting out, stick with predictable structures such as:

9. Keep the whole song under ***3:20***. Most radio stations cut songs to this length. Too long = boring. Shorter = flashy.

10. Advertise the song. In this case, Ms. Gerrard would love to hear a rendition, so ***practice*** and ***perform it***!