

Meaningful Lyrics Cheat Sheet

Below are several of the most important quick-reference tips and ideas to keep in mind when you're writing lyrics for your songs. These concepts will help you write lyrics that make an emotional connection with your listeners, which is typically what makes listeners fall in love with songs.

Have a Central Focus for Your Song

Having an overall concept or "big idea" for your song will give it a coherent message. Plus, if you know what your song will be about, you can better plan out the "feel" of your song when you write chord progressions, melodies and finalize your lyrics.

- ✓ With your big idea in mind, plan out each section of your song (verse, chorus, bridge, etc.) so you know what their purposes will be before you write any words. This will help your story flow well.

Write Very Specific and Descriptive Lyrics

Specificity is a powerful way to get your listeners intrigued with your story. Even though it can seem counterintuitive, typically the more specific, detail-oriented and personal something is, the more universal it is.

- ✓ Engaging the five senses is a great way to be descriptive and paint a visual picture with words.
- ✓ Metaphors are an important tool for bringing your lyrics to life.
- ✓ Avoid generic language. Phrases like "I feel good" are hard for people to relate to.

Use Rhyme as a Strategy

Think of rhyme as way to enhance your song, as opposed to something you just "have" to do. Use it (or omit it) when it's appropriate for the mood of your song.

- ✓ Be aware of the most common rhyme schemes used in popular music (e.g., ABAB or xAxA). When you know them, then you can alter them as needed to positively impact your lyrics.
- ✓ Become familiar with the different types of rhymes (e.g., perfect rhymes, imperfect rhymes, consonance rhymes, etc.) in order to widely open up the rhymes available to you as you write.
- ✓ Use a physical rhyming dictionary for more rhyming options. It doesn't make you less creative.

Align Your Words with Your Music

Write your words to a clearly defined musical rhythm so you don't end up with wordy, awkward sounding lyrics that can easily be misheard and make the message of your song less clear.

- ☑ Align each lyrical line with a melodic line for a song that resonates with your listeners. Just because a lyric came out of your head, doesn't mean it fits your melody well. You may have to make it fit.
- ☑ Highlight the most important lyrical phrases (like the title) with how they're presented in your music, so they stand out.

Be Conscious of the Lines You Use in Each Section

Simple concepts like the number, rhythm, and length of the lines in each section of your song are things you use all the time as a songwriter, but you probably haven't given much thought to how you can use them as tools to enhance your lyrics.

- ☑ The number of lines you use in each section of your song can affect its mood. For example, an even number of lines tends to give a stable or complete feeling.
- ☑ The length of a lyrical phrase in your song can be an important tool in highlighting that phrase.
- ☑ Avoid clichés, unless you can use them to create a new meaning no one's heard before.

Get In-Depth Information About Each of These Lyric Writing Concepts

This outline should give you ideas for meaningful lyrics, so reference these notes as you're writing your songs. Meaningful lyrics are the key to making an emotion connection to your listeners, which can make them fall in love with your songs.

If you'd like to take what's discussed in each of these bullet points to a much more in-depth level, [How to Write Songs That Sell: The Lyrics Module](#) dives deep into each one of these topics, so you'll fully understand how to create lyrics that emotionally connect with your listeners, in every song you write.

You can learn more about it and get started with it immediately by clicking here:

<http://successforyoursongs.com/go/lyrics/>