



A SONG FOR YOUR CITY!

Steps & tips for writing your own song lyrics

1. Start by thinking about your city, neighborhood or home-town and figure out what you want to say about it.
2. Landscapes, people, stories, experiences, sounds, smells and flavors of the place can be inspirational.
3. Try choosing a small moment and write about it using your senses.
4. Listen to songs from various artists but also search for the lyrics and actually read them, without listening to the songs.
5. Sometimes it helps thinking the title of your song, first.
6. You can either try write with a particular rhythmic pattern or... just write.
7. A typical song structure includes a verse, chorus, and bridge in the following arrangement: intro, verse — chorus — verse — chorus —bridge — chorus — outro. This is known as an ABABCB structure, where A is the verse, B is the chorus and C is the bridge.
8. What message do you want your listener to walk away from the song knowing? This is your chorus.
9. Notice how much repetition, simple language, and how clean and clear is the main message in the chorus.
10. Try writing a simple verse (such as four or six lines) moving into a chorus with lots of repetition.
11. Be authentic, write like you speak. Write like narrating your story to a small group of people who care about you and what you have to say.

Tip: Try to imagine your city as if it were a person and write a song about him/her. Who would it be, what would they be doing, what kind of clothes would s/he be wearing? Is it she or he, or maybe without a gender? How does this person make you feel? What is your story? Write about it!

Sources:

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