



## JUDGES SONGWRITING TIPS

Song Structure: For Example: Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Bridge, Chorus or... Verse, Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus (Bridge-or not) Chorus

Rhyme Scheme: Try to be consistent with the rhyme structure; if starting out rhyming line 2 with line 4, continue with that structure through all the verses

Be consistent with tense: Are you in first, second, or third person. (I, me, you, we, he, she, they)

Have a message or point to the song: A situation, a conflict, a resolve – use the bridge to tie the verses together and the chorus (hook) for the common theme within the verses

Relate the lyric to the hook throughout the song: Try not to lose sight of the “point” of your song – choose your words efficiently

Match the lyric with the chords of the song-Major or Minor: In general major chords are happy and minor chords are sad.

Use common or conversational language: Strive to make the lyrics current if it's a contemporary theme

Try not to use too many clichés: Make your metaphors unique and purposeful

Make the song one that others can relate to. not just a personal story, by using a universal theme

Change the surroundings of where you write your songs: A different environment may give you a different kind of song

Make sure to start the chorus on a chord other than the one you used to start the verse: For example: If you start the verse on the 1 chord, begin the chorus on the 4 or 5 chord and try to give the chorus it's own musical identity, not just a musical repeat of the verses. If using the same chord structure, vary the chorus vocally by singing up a third or fifth vocally

### SUGGESTED READING:

*Six Steps to Songwriting Success*-Jason Blume,

*Lyric Writing*-Sheila Davis

*You Can Write Great Lyrics*-Pamela Phillips Oland

*“Great songs are not written they are rewritten”*

*”Know that songs are a work in progress”*