

How to Write Your First Simple Song

A Super Simple Guide (For College Students)

So, you want to write a song? That's fantastic. A song is just a short story—or a big feeling—set to rhythm and melody. If you can tell a friend about your day, you already have what it takes to write music.

The Golden Rule: Make Everything Serve the Same Idea

Every part of your song—lyrics, melody, rhythm, even the vibe—should circle around one central idea or feeling. Think of it like a thesis statement in an essay. Everything else in the paper supports it; everything else in your song should too.

1. The Chorus: Your Main Idea

The chorus is the heartbeat of your song. It's the part listeners remember. It summarizes your theme in just a few lines.

Example:

Example Chorus: I wish this summer would never end 'Cause the sun is high and school is out, This is what I dream about. Oh, I wish this summer would never, ever end.

Write your chorus idea here:

2. The Verses: Your Story Details

If the chorus is your thesis, the verses are your evidence. They build the world around your idea.

Example:

Verse 1 Example: The final bell is ringing loud, I'm running out into the crowd. Throwing all my books on the ground, Not another classroom to be found.

Draft Verse 1 (set the scene):

Verse 2

Add a new detail or move the story forward.

Example:

Verse 2 Example: Now we're heading to the lake, The biggest cannonballs we'll make. No more homework, for goodness sake, Just ice cream and a chocolate shake.

Draft Verse 2 (what happens next?):

3. The Bridge: A Fresh Perspective

The bridge gives your song a twist. It shifts mood or energy before the final chorus.

Example:

Bridge Example: The sun goes down in pink and gold, A perfect story to be told. We're gathered 'round a campfire's light, And everything just feels so right.

Write your bridge idea here:

Your First Song Map

Here's a structure you can follow:

1. Verse 1 (Set the scene)
2. Chorus (Main idea)
3. Verse 2 (What happens next?)
4. Chorus (Reinforce idea)
5. Bridge (Shift perspective)
6. Chorus (Main idea, one last time!)

Once you've filled in each block, you've got a full song!