

How to Write Rap Lyrics

Turning your idea into bars

Make it personal

You might think that writing about general topics will gain you more of a following, but the opposite is actually the case. By writing lyrics from your own personal experiences you will come across as more authentic and the listeners will be more able to relate to you.

Since not everyone has the exact same experiences, many will not be able to identify with the message you're trying to convey, but the ones that do will become your loyal fans. And it's the loyal fans who are going to stick by you and support you throughout your career.

Come up with potential titles & beats

A song title will give your writing a sense of direction. Instead of writing random raps, your writing will become more focused and on point. The title doesn't have to remain the same throughout the lyric writing process, you can always change it later.

Finding, or creating a beat that resonates with the message you're trying to convey is essential. If you're writing about a sad topic a more melancholy beat will help set up a more conducive mood. And if your writing about a happy topic an uptempo beat will help set up a more vibrant mood.

Switch up the rhythms

Sticking to one rhythm through the song can make your lyrics come across as monotonous. Consider switching up your flow every four bars. You can make use of multisyllables, skipping lines, where every other line rhymes, and stretching out certain words.

Your first four lines bars could all end with a single syllable. Your second four lines bars could end with every second bar syllable matching. And you can change up the configurations as you go, while remembering to keep a pattern going.

Put it all together

After writing down some lyrics, you'll find that some of them are catchier than others. The most catchy lyrics are usually used for the hook. The verses contain more of the lyrical storytelling content. Pre-hooks are in between the two, priming the listener for the hook.