

Name: _____

Songwriting Rubric

Eh... Not too shabby Cool! A-ma-ZING!
| (needs improvement) (satisfactory) (excellent) (superior)

Lyrics



Melody



Harmony/Chords



Rhythm



Write a paragraph in the space below providing a rationale for your grade using musical vocabulary.

90+	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D

Harmony Basics continued...

Key	I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	bVII
A	A	Bm	C#m	D	E	F#m	G
B	B	C#m	D#m	E	F#	G#m	A
C	C	Dm	Em	F	G	Am	Bb
D	D	Em	F#m	G	A	Bm	C
E	E	F#m	Gm	A	B	C#m	D
F	F	Gm	Am	Bb	C	Dm	Eb
G	G	Am	Bm	C	D	Em	F

Primary Chords (red, blue, yellow)

Secondary Chords (purple, orange, green)

Extra Spicy (pink)

Harmony Basics continued...

Key	i	ii	III	iv	V/v	VI	VII
Am	Am	Bm	C	Dm	E/Em	F	G
Bm	Bm	C#m	D	Em	F#/F#m	G	A
Cm	Cm	Dm	Eb	Fm	G/Gm	Ab	Bb
Dm	Dm	Em	F	Gm	A/Am	Bb	C
Em	Em	F#m	G	Am	B/Bm	C	D
Fm	Fm	Gm	Ab	Bbm	C/Cm	Db	Eb
Gm	Gm	Am	Bb	Cm	D/Dm	Eb	F

Primary Chords (red, blue, yellow)

Secondary Chords (purple, orange, green)

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Melody Basics

What makes a melody memorable?

Characteristics of a good melody:

combination of inside/outside notes

contour

rhythm

Lyrics Basics

Here are some suggestions:

- love songs (duh!)
- geography
- telephones/letters/other forms of communication
- cars/trains/planes
- crime and punishment
- the urban landscape
- answer songs and parodies
- time
- famous people
- books/movies
- put-down songs
- what's on the radio
- articles of apparel
- dances
- fantasy
- songs about writing songs
- politics/religion/spirituality/protest

The Power of 4

4 chords + 4 lines + 1 melody (4 times) = VERSE

4 chords (can be same or different) + 1 or 2 sentences (include title) + 1 melody = CHORUS

Examples:

[Self Esteem](#) by Offspring

[Don't Stop Believin'](#) by Journey

[That'll Be The Day](#) by Buddy Holly

[Stand By Me](#) Ben E. King

[Folsom Prison Blues](#) by Johnny Cash

Song Structure Flow Chart

