The 34 Point Songwriting Checklist

Remember, these might not all work for you.
Use them in whatever way fits your process.

Before You Start

☐ Have I loosely figured out what instruments I’ll be using?
☐ Will my song have lyrics?
☐ Have I defined the topic or main concept of my song?

Everything You Need To Know About Your Song

☐ Have I figured out my song structure? E.g. AABA
☐ Does my song have a relevant title?
☐ Have I determined the key of my song?

☐ Do my verses propel the action of my song?
☐ Does my song build suspense?
☐ Is there a climax to my song?
☐ Does my song intro build excitement?
☐ Are my transitions smooth?
☐ Does each part compliment the part after it?
☐ If there is a bridge in my song does it contrast my other parts effectively?

☐ Does my song ask a question?
☐ Does my song answer a question?
☐ Does my song capture a real genuine experience?
☐ Is my song relatable?

☐ Have I created progressions and arrangements that are unique and uncommon?
☐ Would I listen to my song?
☐ Is the chorus addictive and catchy?
☐ Is there a hook in each part of my song? (Verse, Chorus, Bridge etc.)
☐ Is my song long enough? (Typical pop songs should be between 3 and 4 minutes)
☐ Does my verse melody compliment my chorus melody?
☐ Does the bridge introduce enough of a different feel than the rest of my song?
☐ Does my outro leave the listener wanting more?

☐ Is the main idea of my song obvious enough?
☐ If I heard my song on the radio is there something that would draw my ear in instantly?
☐ Are my influences apparent?
☐ Is every part of my song absolutely necessary?
☐ Do any of my parts stick out like a sore thumb?

☐ Does my song have an overall feel to it?
☐ Does my song fit in the genre that I was attempting to work in?
☐ Does my song do something interesting that fits outside of the genre I was working in?
☐ Is it finished?