



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?

