



Sound Rights

Resource Pack 2 – Create – Session 1 – Songwriting – Say it till a song comes

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- Think of a favourite/familiar song, perhaps by your favourite singer/songwriter.
- Think of one that has a reasonably straightforward accompaniment or backing.
- Sing or hum it through.
- Listen carefully as you sing it and think about the shape and structure of the piece.
- Talk about this within your group – it doesn't matter if you can't remember the complete song
- How does it begin?
- Are there different sections?
- Are there repetitions in the words and/or the melody?
- Can you identify a 'hook' (a catchy phrase or an interesting lyric)?
- Where in the song do they happen?
- How often are they repeated?
- Keep some notes about all this.
- You are now going to have a go at writing your own song (composition and lyrics).
- Starting points for writing lyrics could be anything. You may already have an idea, but if not you could take a headline from a recent newspaper.
- Discuss what this is about or what it makes you think of. Is there an issue which you can develop?
- Could you use the headline as a recurring theme and then develop this?

- Jot down your ideas.
- Then chant them over and over until you begin to 'feel' a pulse and begin to get some rhythm into the phrases.
- Don't be afraid to change or alter the words, but do think about creating some shape and pattern to your ideas.
- Just play around/experiment by 'moving' the chanting into using some pitched notes – just three or four to begin with. Think back to how the way in which your favourite song 'worked', though you are not copying this but creating your own.
- Use the internet to access a really useful BBC Radio 2 web resource on songwriting, 'Sold on Song', with helpful guidelines on various aspects of songwriting, including structure, melody and lyrics - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio2/soldonsong/guide/song.shtml>. (There is also a link to a songwriting game on this webpage where they could play with chords and get feedback as to what kind of songwriter they are.)
- If anyone can play a keyboard, guitar or any other instrument you could add some accompaniment. If not you might want to join with another group and work with someone in the class/group who does.
- Record your finished work or work in progress so that you can return to it another time.
- Depending on timing, share your song with the class or the group.

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