

SONGWRITING FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS

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HONEST ASSESSMENT

Why am I teaching this song? What specific skill is it teaching? Aim for high-level, concrete answers.

Does it connect with my kids today? Language? Culture? References?

Is there anything I'm forcing my way through? Parts that don't work? Different year, same struggles?

EDITING

Edit a longer song into a 4 or 8 bar melody.

Change melody as needed. Notate using flat.io (*free online resource*), Finale, Sibelius, etc.

WRITING

Songs need to:

- 1) Be singable/memorable
- 2) Springboard off of known skills
- 3) Teach a new skill or skills
- 4) Have the ability to expand into 4 different areas:
 - a. Rhythm ID/analysis
 - b. Melody ID/analysis
 - c. Associated movements
 - d. Instrumental accompaniment

HELPFUL HINTS

Start with the end goal in mind - Identify known skills, and then identify the new skill that will be taught. Create a song based on that new skill.

When possible, try to start and end on *DO*.

Ascend on the front half, descend on the back end.

If you can't whistle or hum it easily, it's probably not a memorable enough melody. (*reference nursery rhymes*)

Use your theory! Tonic -> pre-dominant -> dominant -> tonic.

The new skill should be no more than 25% of the new song.

Lyrics and melody should reflect any intended movement (*matching "stand up" with ascending melody*)

Use references to school, class, community culture they won't find in a book.