Songwriting Unit Plan

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| Module | Description of Tasks |
| Week One: Introduction to Songwriting  | * Complete Get-to-Know-You Survey
* Watch Professional Songwriter Video\* and answer prompt
* Complete Journaling Activity

\*Adaptation: Complete Survey on paper. Read transcription of video. |
| Week Two: History of Songwriting in America  | * Watch the screencast lecture video of Songwriting in America Powerpoint\*
* Complete Kahoot Quiz\*
* Complete Listening Assignment

\* Adaptation: Review printed slides and answer questions on printed quiz. Listening capacity will be based on student  |
| Week Three: SHMRF Analysis | * Watch the screencast lecture video of SHMRF\* Powerpoint\*\*
* Complete SHMRF Analysis Journal Activity

\* *SHMRF is an adaptation of Jan LaRue’s Guide to Style Analysis known as SHMRG (Sound-Harmony, Melody, Rhythm and Growth. In my example Growth is replaced by Form)* \*\*Adaptation: Review printed slides and answer questions on printed quiz.  |
| Week Four: Lyrics  | * Watch the screencast lecture video of Rhyme, Rhythm and Meter in Poetry
* Complete Rhyme and Reason game
* Complete Lyrics Journal Assignment

\* Adaptation: Review printed slides |
| Week Five: Sound, Rhythm and Form  | * Watch the screencast lecture video of Song Form
* Pick at least two (2) contrasting instruments/sound producers to include in your song and write a sound profile description
* Submit the rough draft of your chorus/refrain lyrics

\* Adaptation: Review printed slides |
| Week Six: Harmony and Melody  | * Watch the screencast lecture video about Melody
* Watch the screencast lecture video about Harmony
* Submit your revisions on your refrain lyrics
* Submit your rough draft of your verse lyrics

\* Adaptation: Review printed slides |
| Week Seven: Putting it Together | * Submit your revisions on your verse lyrics
* Submit your Rough Draft refrain (Melody, Harmony, Lyrics) in either written leadsheet or recorded video format.
* Optional: Peer workshop in lieu of class meeting
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| Week Eight: Putting it Together (continued) | * Submit your final revisions on your refrain
* Submit your Rough Draft verses (Melody, Harmony, Lyrics) in either written leadsheet or recorded video format
* Optional: Peer workshop in lieu of class meeting
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| Week Nine: Final Revisions | * Submit your final revisions on your entire song
* Complete practice self-evaluation/reflection
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| Week Ten: Performance | * Attend virtual open-mic night via video call\*
* Either perform your song live -Or- screen share video recording of song/music video
* Submit Positive Peer Reviews following performance

\*Adaptation: Perform song for your family or hold a porch concert and write a reflection about your experience. If possible, have someone video-tape with phone and send to me.  |

Sample Module: Week One

[All About Me Quiz](https://forms.gle/Qjfh4fCRCGb3Tv4p8)

[Professional Songwriter Video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BVrUtMi__0E)

**Discussion:** Imagine if you were a professional songwriter for a top 40 artist. What would be some challenges? What would be rewarding? If you could write a song for any artist, who would you pick and why?

**Journaling Activity:** Take or draw a picture of an item and write a small journal entry describing why it means something to you. (Example: stuffed animal, collectible item, a photograph, an actual person in your house, etc.)

*Optional:* Weekly Zoom Check-in Meeting in lieu of actual synchronous class time to give students a chance to discuss material, ask questions, and socialize with each other in a safe environment. Usually will include some kind of game like Scavenger Hunt, I Spy, Charades, etc.