



NEW WRITING  
NORTH  
YOUNG WRITERS

WRITING  
FROM  
HOME



## Creating Ideas for Songs

### Warm Up:

Free Writing to wake up your mind!

Start by listing any five words/phrases for example...

1. the sky
2. dreams
3. what happened yesterday
4. the colour blue
5. community

Set a timer for one minute per word/phrase. Write without stopping to think for one minute on each subject. Repeat until you have done this for each of the five words or phrases.

### Get Inspired:

Backing tracks!

Think about what type of song you are interested in writing. What's the vibe of the song? Is it happy? Sad? Inspirational? What genre of music are you interested in? Hip-hop? Soul? Pop?

Once you have decided this, open YouTube and start searching for copyright free beats that fit the vibe you want eg. "Happy song hip hop type beat". Spend some time listening to the different options and choose one you like.

### Give it a Try:

Now you have a beat, choose one of the writing prompts provided (see end of document).

Start by listing things related to the prompt.

For example, if you chose the prompt "Think of your favourite place. Describe it. The little details and why its your favourite place" your list might be:

- The beach is my favourite place
- The waves are the first thing I hear
- The smell of fish and chips and hot dogs
- The big queues I can see lining up to buy icecream
- The sun hits my skin
- It's my favourite place because I can get away from everything else and have some time to think and be free from the pressures and troubles of life

Spend some time creating your list, these ideas will help you when you start writing your song.

## Challenge Yourself:

Look back over your list and pick one of the lines you wrote in the list that stand out to you for your first line in the song.

Next pick a line you want to explore for your chorus.

## Go Further:

Think of your song as a story with a beginning, middle and end. What are you wanting to tell people about your idea? What journey do you want to take them on? What do you want them to feel?

Using the lines you wrote, start pulling the words apart and adding bits in to write a story. For example "*It's my favourite place because I can get away from everything else and have some time to think and be free from the pressures and troubles of life*" might become "*The beach is my favourite place and I'll tell you why, it's a place I can get away and be free from the pressures of life*".

## Explore Further:

Choose another prompt and write a new list based on this prompt. Repeat the songwriting process using this list!

This workshop was devised by Kema Kay for New Writing North Young Writers.



Kema Sikazwe, also known as Kema Kay, was brought up in the west-end of Newcastle. Kema came from a musical background with passion for rap, singing & songwriting which he developed in a local youth project where he spent most of his time as a teen. He's went on to perform at the biggest venues around Newcastle, Sage, Evolution Festival, Headlining the O2 academy as well as supporting big artists in the industry. It wasn't until his early 20s he got interested in acting where he went on to land a main role in BAFTA, BIFA Palme D'or award winning film I Daniel Blake and Lady Macbeth. This led to an interest with major agencies across the UK ending up with representation by Untied Agents. Eager to learn and built his craft he attended live theatre regularly becoming an associate artist at Live Theatre in 2017 getting up on stage for the first time. Writing & performing his Debut Show Shine which played at Live Theatre & toured to Edinburgh & received raving 4 star reviews.

When not on stage or on TV screen, he delivers songwriting workshops with various companies in Newcastle going into schools teaching kids how to rap, sing, song-write & build their confidence.

New Writing North Young Writers is a programme for young people aged 12-19. We run creative writing groups, masterclasses and programmes in schools across the North East. We support young people to express their ideas, to work with professional writers and artists, to create and share new work, and to meet other young writers.

We would love to read your writing! Share it with us on social media using #writingfromhome or by emailing [youngwriters@newwritingnorth.com](mailto:youngwriters@newwritingnorth.com). Search for New Writing North Young Writers on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter, where we will also be sharing regular writing prompts. Each week we will select a Young Writer of the Week whose work will be shared on our channels.

Find other writing workshops and much more on our website [www.newwritingnorth.com](http://www.newwritingnorth.com)

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Supported using public funding by  
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