

# Sarah Lee Langford – Song Writing Assignment #1 – Finding Your Voice

**Step One** – Listen to songs and try and deconstruct how they work

Here are some things to think about while listening to your favorite songs

- When does the chorus occur? How many times? How about the bridge?
- Does it change pace? (In the music world, pace is known as tempo)
- What are the different sounds in the song? When and how do they interact with one another?

**Step Two** – Listen to an episode on The Story Acorn and write down things that stick out to you. This could be a theme in the story, a moment of the person’s life, a thing the person said, anything that jumped out during your listening.

**Step Three** – Write a prose about the things that stuck out to you. This could be a list or a short story or just a simple free-write. Think thematic: this doesn’t have to be a direct telling of the person’s story.

**Step Four** – Think of a melody. You don’t have to know anything about notes or rhythms right now. Just hum a melody that you think sounds interesting and matches the mood of your prose. Record that humming to your phone’s memo app so you can refer back to it later.

**Step Five** – Get collaborative! You can take your melody and prose and try and write some lyrics, or you can ask a friend to write the lyrics to the tune you came up with. Maybe you know someone who plays an instrument who can come up with a backing-track. Have a back-and-forth with your team and see what you can come up with.

**Step Six** – Record it all put together, and have fun!

**Remember:** You don’t have to be Michael Jackson on your first try. If you are creating and making music, you are expressing yourself and your story, which is what matters most.