

What is Form?

Resources

Introduction - Introduces some material, often before a vocal part comes in

Verse - A repeated section with changing lyrics

Pre-Chorus - Builds into the chorus, often with repeated lyrical material

Chorus - The repeated and often catchiest part of a song. It often summarizes the song, thematically, and the lyrics often don't change

Exploration

Write out the lyrics to the chorus of any song you know:

How do you know this is the chorus of the song?

Write your own chorus lyrics! Remember, they can be very simple. If you need a theme or idea, use the simple idea of a color like blue

Knowing Instrument Sounds

Resources

1. Listen to orchestral instruments on the Dallas Symphony website
2. Advanced: Check out this article on Sweetwater.com about famous synthesizer sounds and how they are recreated today!

Exploration

Pick one instrument from the Dallas Symphony website to listen to.
Instrument

2. Describe that instrument in three adjectives (descriptive words like: sharp, smooth, beautiful, bright, etc.)

3. What is your favorite instrument sound that you've heard so far?
Why do you like that sound?

Name three instruments (of any type) that you can identify by ear

Knowing Instrument Sounds Resources

Drawing to music can be a great way to relax! It can also help you put a visual to what you are hearing. If you are not sure what to draw, ask questions like:

1. Does the beat feel more like straight or wavy lines?
2. Do the melody/harmony notes seem more like warm colors or cool colors?
3. Does the song make you think of a particular scene, object, or person?

Exploration

Choose a song to draw to

Title _____

Artist _____

Draw your picture below or attach it to this worksheet

Knowing Instrument Sounds

Resources

Musicians almost always collaborate with others to write, record and release their music. Two of the most common collaborations are with songwriters and producers.

Songwriters may write lots of songs and then send them to artists who might like to record them. Other times, they work directly with the performing artist to write a song together.

Producers have a complex role in the music industry. You could think of them sort of like the “head coach” of the music-making team. They might perform some or all of the following tasks (and many more!):

1. Helping the artist choose a soundscape - microphones, synthesizers, drum beats and sounds, etc.
2. Helping to “arrange” the song and put the parts in an order that will get the message across (and sell the song!)
3. Help provide an overall vision for the sound and flow of a collection of songs
4. Encouraging musicians to try different musical ideas or sounds. They may add in their own beats or instrumental recording as well!

Exploration

Producers & Songwriter Ideas

- Butch Vig (Nirvana, Smashing Pumpkins, Sonic Youth)
- Linda Perry (P!nk, Dolly Parton, Weezer,
- Rick Rubin (Red Hot Chili Peppers, Black Sabbath, Beastie Boys, Rage Against the Machine, Aerosmith) -Phil Spector (The Ramones, The Beatles, The Ronettes, The Righteous Brothers)
- Quincy Jones (Michael Jackson, George Benson, Leslie Gore)
- Sylvia Massey (Melvins, Tool, Powerman 5000)
- Prince (Himself, Janelle Monae, No Doubt, Chaka Khan, Sheila E.)
- Max Martin (N'Sync, Maroon 5, Taylor Swift, Katy Perry, Ariana Grande, The Weeknd)
- WondaGurl (Mariah Carey, Jay-Z, Travis Scott)
- Scott Hendricks (Brooks N Dunn, Faith Hill, Blake Shelton, Trace Adkins)

Knowing Instrument Sounds Resources

I listened to five songs produced/written by _____

1) Artist- _____ Song- _____

2) Artist- _____ Song- _____

3) Artist- _____ Song- _____

4) Artist- _____ Song- _____

5) Artist- _____ Song- _____

How did your producer get their start? Do/did they play an instrument themselves?

Name two or more popular albums/singles they produced?

Where is your producer from? Was their work based out of any notable cities?

How is their sound described by musicians, critics, etc.?

Recording Studios

Overview

Many artists have a “dream studio” that they would love to record in. People choose the studios based on:

1. The equipment. Studios might have certain types of vintage or current amplifiers, microphones, interfaces, synthesizers, and more!
2. The physical space. Even on your phone, you would sound very different depending on where you record yourself. This has to do with the size and shape of the room as well as the materials that the floor, walls, and ceiling are made of.
3. The people. Certain audio engineers (the ones responsible for getting the right sounds) are based out of specific studios. They might specialize in getting certain types of sounds that artists want to utilize.
4. The history. Imagine being able to record your own music in the actual place where your favorite musician was hanging out and recording the music that inspires you!

Recording Studios

Exploration

- Hitsville U.S.A. (Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, The Temptations, The Supremes, The Jackson 5)
- Platinum (Post Malone, Lady Gaga, Justin Beiber, Shakira)
- Muscle Shoals (The Rolling Stones, Aretha Franklin, Elton John, Paul Simon)
- Abbey Road (Ella Fitzgerald, The Beatles, Pink Floyd, Oasis, Radiohead, Bastille, Adele)
- Sunset Sound (Beach Boys, Roberta Flack, Led Zeppelin, The Doors, Janis Joplin, Jet)
- Electric Lady (Jimi Hendrix, The Clash, Weezer, the Roots, St. Vincent)
- Capitol (Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole, the Beastie Boys, the Vines, Halsey, Marshmello, Migos)
- Conway (Lorde, The Weeknd, Pharrel)

I listened to 5 songs recorded in the _____studio. Here is what I listened to (choose 5 different artists):

1) Artist- Song-

2) Artist- Song-

3) Artist- Song-

4) Artist- Song-

5) Artist- Song-

Where was/is this studio located? _____

What years was/is it most active? _____

Circle any words below that you think describe the sound of these recordings:

Funky Aggressive Pretty Smooth Distorted Poppy

Experimental Unique Airy Crisp Dark Grainy Mellow

Bass-Heavy Full Dance-able _____

Extension: Name two recording techniques that this studio is known for: