

WHAT GOES WHERE:

Basic Placement of Content in Song Structure Parts

(Reprinted from “12 Steps to Building Better Songs” – available on

www.writesongs.com)

VERSE/CHORUS

VERSE/BRIDGE

PLACEMENT OF TITLE

Prominent place/s in chorus:

First line...Every other line...

Lines 3 and 6

...Every line...Last line

At the beginning or end of every

verse

LYRICAL CONTENT OF VERSES

Background material, supporting evidence for statement to be made in chorus

The title and variations on the same message as the title.

LYRICAL CONTENT OF THE CHORUS

The title and variations on the same message as the title.

No chorus

LYRICAL CONTENT OF THE BRIDGE

An optional element of verse/chorus structure. When included, is often short: 1 or 2 lines. Bridge should add something new and interesting or be left out.

A main component of the verse/bridge structure. Usually substantial: 4 or more lines. Lyrics contain pivotal information about the central conflict of the song.

EMOTIONAL HIGH POINT

The title in particular and the chorus in general. When you play only the chords of your song, the place where the title sits on the music should be obvious as the most memorable musical moment.

The bridge, particularly the last lines.

MELODY/ARRANGEMENT

Verse builds to chorus, chorus takes off and the energy of the chorus stays up throughout.

Verse feels complete within itself, resolves at end. Bridge builds to highest point at end.