

Art in the Park: Writing Songs with Jose Barrionuevo

Choose an Emotion

Songs begin with an emotion—a word that expresses a feeling. Circle the emotion that is going to inspire your song today.

Sad

Happy

Peaceful

Mad

Joyful

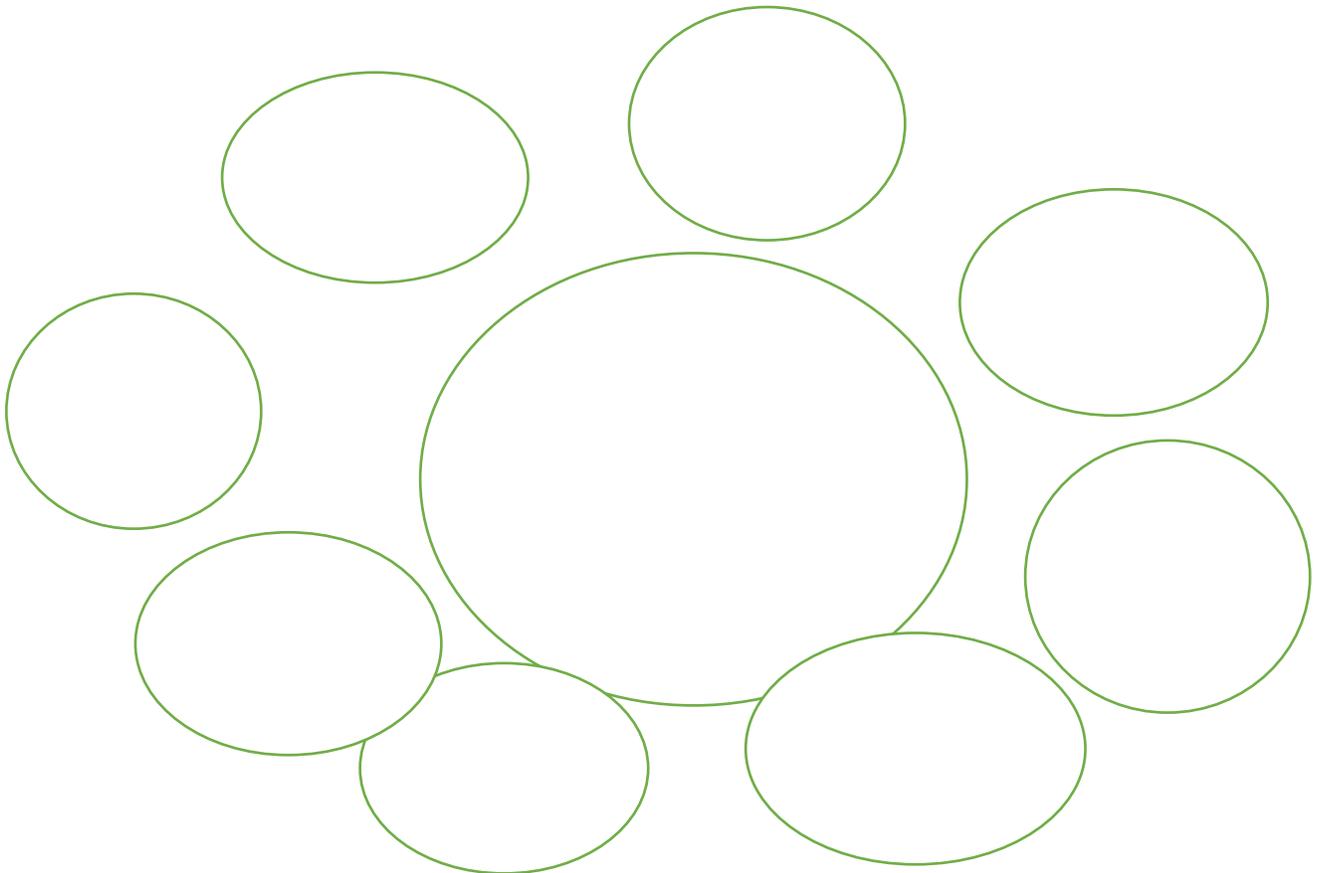
Excited

Grumpy

Create a Word Association and Emotion Bubble

Write the emotion you circled in the big bubble in the middle, and then write words you associate with that feeling in the little bubbles surrounding it. (just ask if you need help).

For example, if you chose Happy, you'd write that in the big bubble in the middle, and you might choose words like sun, ice cream, friends, food, flowers, movie, smile, and music to write in the little bubbles.



Next, Create Sentences

Choose four of your favorite words that you wrote in the little bubbles and write sentences using that word and expressing the emotion you chose.

For example,

The SUN is shining

The FLOWERS are blooming

I'll be roller skating with my FRIENDS

We stopped at Gelato Fiasco for some yummy ICE CREAM.

Write your sentences below:

1.

2.

3.

4.

Now, take a look at the sentences that you created.

- Are there any words that rhyme?
- Is there a story that you could tell, using those sentences?

You are ready to create your SONG!

You can use your sentences, and the words you chose, to create your song. (see an example on the back of this page)

The basic structure of a song is

- Verse – this is the part where you tell a story
 - Chorus – this should express the main idea of the song. Repetition is the key to a catchy chorus!
 - Verse – more of the story
 - Chorus – repeat it again
 - Bridge – These words express a different feeling—it's often a little bit of a surprise. *For example, you might create a bridge, using sentences inspired by being SAD (the opposite of HAPPY) – raining is the worst, I hate to lose a game, and my sunburn is a pain.*
 - Chorus – repeat it again
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Verse 1:

Chorus:

Verse 2:

Repeat Chorus (see the words above)

Bridge:

Repeat Chorus: (see the words above)

Note from Jose: As you grow as a songwriter, you'll learn to create more complex emotion bubbles that combine many different emotions together. The important thing to remember is that art is an expression of your soul and there is no wrong way to approach it. Have fun with it!

Song Example: Happy Summer by Collins Kibet

Verse 1:

The sun is shining
Flowers are blooming

Chorus

I love being at the beach
I love ice cream
I love hanging out with friends
I wear sunglasses
I put on sunscreen

Verse 2:

My dad is taking me to karate class in 20 minutes
And then I'll be roller skating with friends

Chorus:

I love being at the beach
I love ice cream
I love hanging out with friends
I wear sunglasses
I put on sunscreen

Bridge:

Feeling sick makes me sad
I can't play with my friends when it's raining
Losing a game is not fun

Chorus:

I love being at the beach
I love ice cream
I love hanging out with friends
I wear sunglasses
I put on sunscreen