

Revising Guidelines

Things to keep in mind and questions to ask when revising a song.

1. What is the Central point of this song? Is it too broad or too narrow? Does my whole song center on making this central point?
2. Does it sound unique or does it sound cliché? Can I find ways to make parts I think are cliché sound unique?
3. Does it work mechanically? Does the form seem clear? Do the words lay out in a natural meter? Does the rhyme scheme seem effortless or is it forced?
4. Can I hear this song being sung in a different voice than my own?
5. Does this song have something that makes it unique?
6. What is the weakest point in this song? How can I reimagine it to take the conclusion in a different direction?
7. Does any part of this song make me feel strongly in one way or another? Can I put that point of high-emotion in a more prominent place? Can I build into it and make it the conclusion of the song?
8. Does this song show or does it tell?
9. Can you see the images from this song in your head?
10. Can you be more specific or detailed?
11. Do all your textures match up?
12. Does your form or structure have meaning? Does each section represent something? Could you change the form or structure to better reinforce your character or narrative?
13. Would changing the texture of the song change the overarching emotion of the song?
14. Does this song represent you? Do you see yourself in it?
15. Do you understand the song?
16. How does this song make you feel?
17. What is your five-second elevator pitch for this song?
18. Is any part of the song intentionally obtuse? Why?