

SONGWRITING PROCESS as outlined by Hallerin Hylton-Hill
Summarized by Diana Sinclair

1. Dump – put down all the ideas, Bible texts, feelings, etc,
2. Sift – highlight words and phrases that pop out
3. Clarify - reduce to a simple sentence or paragraph
4. Order – number of verses, chorus, bridge etc.
5. Write, sing, reflect, rewrite

Then share please!

Remember the central truth – writers WRITE!

- Say “I AM A WRITER”
- Write lots, don’t make excuses.
- Write regularly, it is less important whether your writing is good or bad.
- After a while, you will learn to build emotional calluses and be better able to deal with criticism.

Develop your craft

- Study and analyze great songs that stick to you like velcro (e.g. Great is Thy Faithfulness)
- Know yourself in a new way – be honest
- Pay attention to the melodies in your head
- Invest in a micro-cassette tape recorder
- Record or write down your ideas

Use core story-telling skills: clearly defined character or thesis

- Setting
- Crisis,
- Resolution
- Note the dynamic tension/ polarity shift (positive and negative)

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SWR2010 Assignment

- 1) Assignment – write a song for children
 - a) The theme is creation – see Genesis 1: 1 - 27
 - b) Decide on the age range according to Sabbath school classes
 - (1) For ages see <http://www.irvingsda.org/children.html>
 - (2) Think of other songs that you may know suitable for this age
 - (3) Think about the structure, how much repetition does it use?
 - c) Brain storm/write down words that you may want to use
 - i) Form the words into a poem
 - ii) Record yourself singing the words through a few different ways
 - iii) Repeat until you are satisfied
 - d) Evaluate your work
 - i) are the words simple? Suitable for that age of children?
 - ii) Is the tune catchy – easy to grasp?
 - iii) Can a child sing it?
 - e) Be prepared to test your work/ share with others