

# Editing Checklist for Lyricists

|  | Self Edit | Peer Edit |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Does this song have a <b>theme/story</b> ?<br>Is the theme/story <b>specific</b> ?   |           |           |
| Does each stanza <b>clearly connect to the theme/story</b> ?<br>Do the stanzas serve as <b>organizational units</b> ?<br>Do the verses contain <b>details/plotline</b> ?<br>Does the chorus serve as a <b>thesis</b> ?<br>Does the bridge introduce a <b>new perspective</b> ? |           |           |
| Do the stanzas adhere to consistent <b>form</b> ?<br>Do the lines adhere to consistent <b>meter</b> ?  |           |           |
| Have I examined the lyrics for <b>excess repetition</b> (of words, of details/plotline)?   |           |           |
| Have I examined the lyrics for <b>awkwardness</b> (forced rhymes, unnatural phrases)?  |           |           |
| Have I examined the lyrics for <b>clichés</b> ?<br>If I'm using a cliché, am I using it <b>intentionally or originally</b> ?   |           |           |
| Have I checked for consistent use of <b>verb tense</b> ?<br>Have I checked for use of <b>strong verbs</b> ?  |           |           |
| Have I checked for clear and specific <b>pronoun usage</b> ?   |           |           |
| Have I read the lyrics aloud, one word at a time, to check for <b>simple errors</b> ?  |           |           |
| Have I read the lyrics dramatically to check for <b>good flow</b> ?  |           |           |
| What <b>thoughts and feelings</b> do these lyrics evoke in me? (Continue in "OTHER NOTES" if necessary.)   |           |           |

## OTHER NOTES