

Song Stories Rules

- I. **SONG SELECTION & SKIPPING:** Song will be selected by hitting shuffle from all songs in Music App
 - A. Skipping will be allowed if the song randomly selected is a religious hymn, movie or TV score, or from a musical.
 - B. Skipping cannot occur simply due to not liking the song, feeling uninspired by it, not fitting current mood, it being an instrumental, it being a holiday specific song, or because the song is already linked to another story.
- II. **RESOURCES ALLOWED:** What resources the writer will be allowed to use during the writing of the story will be limited to listening to the song and reading available lyrics
 - A. There will be no limit placed on the number of times the writer listens to the song while writing the song.
 1. If music is listened to while writing the short story, it cannot be any other song than the song selected. This is to prevent from another song inspiring the story direction or inspiration
 - B. Lyrics for the song can be used when available. Lyrics can come from the music app itself, or a lyric website such as [genius.com](https://www.genius.com)
 1. If a lyric website is used, it can only be used for the lyrics. The About section, or behind the lyrics descriptions cannot be used.
 2. Lyrics can be printed out to be referenced while the planning or writing phase
 - C. No external videos, interviews, or descriptions about the song, the writing process, or the story behind it can be used.
 1. If a song is selected which the writer has already consumed said external resources, skipping will not be allowed, but they are to do their best to not let the external resources inform their creative process in writing the story.
- III. **TIME:** A Time limit of one hour will be enforced for the writing of the story.
 - A. Time will be enforced using the clock app on the writer's phone
 - B. Timer will start once the song has been listened to in its entirety for the first time
 1. Pausing the song during the first listen will not be allowed.
 2. Writer can look up lyrics while the song is playing the first time, but no other brainstorming or writing can occur on paper (or on the computer) until the song is over.
 - C. There are no stipulations enforced regarding time spent brainstorming or writing.
 1. The writer can choose to spend some of their hour brainstorming what to write, or not. How much time spent brainstorming will not be stipulated or enforced
 2. The writer can spend the entirety of the allotted time writing. If the story is finished sooner than the one hour allotted, the writer is not required to continue until time runs out, but there will be no reward for finishing early.
- IV. **STORY:** Certain rules concerning the story subject and length must be followed.
 - A. Story must be considered "Flash Fiction"
 1. Story will be no more than 1000 words, but will still contain: a compelling plot with a beginning, middle, and end; character development; and a twist or surprise ending
 - B. The Story's tone, voice, and energy must match the song.
 1. Having the story's plot match the rises and falls of the music is ideal, and the goal of the exercise.