

Cheat Sheet: Crafting Your Sound for Metalcore and Deathcore Bands

Questions for Self-Reflection:

1. What emotions or stories are we aiming to convey in this song or album?
2. Are our musical influences complementing or conflicting?
3. How do our individual strengths contribute to our band's signature sound?
4. Are we consistently connecting with our target audience?
5. How can we innovate without losing the essence of our band?
6. What feedback have we received that we can integrate into our next creation?
7. Are there thematic elements we want to explore in future works?
8. How do our lyrics align with the music, and is there a strong connection?

Songwriting Checklist:

- Define the song's main theme or message.
- Determine the song structure (e.g., verse-chorus-verse-bridge-chorus).
- Draft initial lyrics – focus on raw emotion and authenticity.
- Decide on a key and tempo that match the song's mood.
- Create a basic melody – can be refined later.
- Factor in instrumental solos or breakdowns.
- Review and refine lyrics for clarity and impact.
- Test the song in a jamming session.
- Seek feedback from trusted sources.
- Finalize and practice!

Songwriting Template:

Song Title: _____

Theme/Message:

- Define the core message or emotion you want to convey.

Lyrics:

Verse 1:

Chorus:

Verse 2:

Bridge:

Chorus:

Instrumentation:

- Main Instruments: _____
- Special segments (e.g., solos, breakdowns): _____

Key & Tempo:

- Key: _____
- Tempo: _____ BPM

Additional Notes/Feedback:

- _____
- _____