



KC Song Studio

Ask a Songwriter

The Question:

How do you get the songwriting process happening when you want to write about a broad concept like “the extinction of species”?





narrow your idea

There are 3 types of ideas: Themes, Angles, and Titles. Narrowing your idea down is crucial.

1

THEME

The broadest type of idea you can have. This is where "the extinction of species" lies. Trying to start writing a lyric here is really difficult, though great songs will have a strong core idea at their heart; an idea that can be summarised in one short sentence.

I'll be there for you

Bridge Over Troubled Waters, Simon & Garfunkel
You've Got a Friend, Carole King
I Will Take Care of You, The Bangles (Dylan O'Brien)
I'm Here, Sweet Talk Radio

I can overcome this challenge

Beautiful, Christina Aguilera
Roar, Katy Perry



2

ANGLE

The Angle is where you decide what narrow piece of the Theme you want to explore. By deciding on a **narrow slice**, you can go more deeply, rather than covering a really broad terrain at a surface level. Your Angle is also ‘your take’ on the Theme; the particular perspective or experience that you have to bring to a familiar theme. An Angle can also be a fresh approach; perhaps you approach the Theme from the perspective of an unexpected character.

- What do you want to say about this theme or topic?
- How do you feel about it right now? What one emotion will you focus on?
- What is a specific situation or moment in which you have experienced this peak emotional state? Use the senses to describe it in as much detail as you can.

Make it:
specific
situational
personal

3 TITLE

One line, phrase, or word that summarises the core idea in an interesting and memorable way.

Be on the lookout for your title while you explore your these questions:

- What realisation have you made?
- What decision have you made?
- What action are you going to take?
- What is your greatest hope?
- What is your greatest fear?

“Go narrow but deep;
not wide and shallow”

