1st Semester
MUSICAL THEATRE SONG DOSSIER

Name_____________________________________________________________   Class/Section_______
Song_________________________________________ Show ____________________________
Composer ____________________________ Lyricist __________________________________

1. Character

   a. Character Name ____________________________ Age____

   b. Assets__________________________________________________________

   c. Flaws__________________________________________________________

   d. Complexes_____________________________________________________

   e. Occupation_____________________________________________________

   f. Education/Social Standing _______________________________________

   g. Private Life____________________________________________________

   h. Public Life_____________________________________________________

   i. Political/Philosophical Views_____________________________________

   j. Sexual Life/Moral Views________________________________________

   k. Secrets _______________________________________________________

l. Choose four of five adjectives that most accurately describe your character and list them in order of importance:

_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
2. Place

When and where does the song take place?

__________________________________________________________________________________

3. Structure of Song/Scene

a. The Moment Before: What happened to motivate the song?

__________________________________________________________________________________

b. What is the song about/essence/basis for “as if”

__________________________________________________________________________________

4. Objective

What do you want? What are you trying to do?

__________________________________________________________________________________

5. Urgency

Why do you do what you do? The Need? What are the stakes?

__________________________________________________________________________________

6. Obstacle

What is preventing you from accomplishing your objective?

__________________________________________________________________________________
7. Relationship

To whom are you talking? _________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

8. The Final Moment

Have you reached your objective? _________________________________________________

What has the song accomplished? How are you different from when you began?
__________________________________________________________________________

9. Emotional Preparation “...that device which permits you to start our scene in a condition of emotional aliveness.” – Sanford Meisner

What are you doing in the “moment before” which gets you emotionally prepared for the start of the song? What is the “as if” that you are using from your own life experience or from your imagination?

a. Emotional Preparation:

b. “As If” - Connects you to the “Essence” of the song. What is the parallel emotional circumstance you are using from your own life experience AND/OR your imagination to connect you to the entire song? i.e, in the song “I Cain’t Say No” from Oklahoma, the essence of the song is an “Addiction” to boys. If you don’t have that kind of addiction, you may substitute it for shoes or food.
10. Lyric Analysis

Define any words or phrases that are unfamiliar:

Note any interesting and/or internal rhymes:

11. Putting It Together

Indicate some choices you tried and discarded, and why.