2nd & 3rd Semester
MUSICAL THEATRE SONG DOSSIER

Name_____________________________________________________________   Class/Section_______

Song_________________________________________ Show ____________________________________

Composer____________________________________ Lyricist __________________________________

1. Character - build a character history based on the given circumstances and/or your imagination.

   a. Character Name ____________________________________________ Age____

   b. Physical Descriptive Adjectives __________________________________________________

   c. Cultural Background/Languages/Dialects__________________________________________

   d. Hometown (City, State, Country) ______________________________________________

   e. Personality Assets__________________________________________________________

   f. Personality Flaws____________________________________________________________

   g. Complexes (obsessions, phobias, hang-ups) ________________________________

   h. Occupation_______________________________________________________________

   i. Education ______________________________________________________________________

   j. Social Standing __________________________________________________________

   k. Private Life_______________________________________________________________

   l. Public Life_______________________________________________________________

   m. Political Views ___________________________________________________________________

   n. Philosophical Views________________________________________________________

   o. Sexual Life_______________________________________________________________________

   p. Religious/Moral Views________________________________________________________

   q. Hopes_______________________________________________________________

   r. Disappointments __________________________________________________________

   s. Secrets __________________________________________________________________________

2. **Place/Environment** – From the libretto and/or imagination, when and where does the song take place? (Include: City/State, Country, Specific Location, Day, Time, Year, Season)


3. **Structure of Song/Scene**

   a. The Moment Before: What happened to motivate the song? (Using the given facts from the libretto and/or your imagination, describe what events lead up to your song.


   b. What is the song about? This is the “Essence” of the song. What basic human emotion does the song address? i.e., Loneliness, Addiction, Thrill, Betrayal, Revenge, Loss, Unrequited Love, Unexpected Love, etc. *(You will create an AS IF that connects you to this)*. This is NOT a rephrasing of the lyrics or the objective of the song.


4. **Objective** – What do you want to accomplish? What do you want the person you are speaking to TO DO?


5. **Urgency** – WHY do you need to achieve your objective? What are the stakes or what will happen if you don’t achieve your objective?
6. **Obstacle** - WHAT and/or WHO is preventing you from accomplishing your objective?

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7. **Relationship** - To whom are you talking? (can be more than one person, list all)

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8. **Journey** - each song is a story that consists of a beginning, middle and end; CREATE A THREE ACT PLAY.

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9. **The Final Moment**

Have you reached your objective? ___________________________________________________________________

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

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

DO NOT COME IN TO A SCENE EMOTIONALLY EMPTY. Name the overall emotion you feel in the “moment before” and describe what you are going to do as an actor to get into it i.e., tell yourself a joke, remember a song or a story, picture a loved one, etc.

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11. 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.

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12. Lyric Analysis

Define any words or phrases that are unfamiliar: ________________________________

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Note any interesting and/or internal rhymes: ________________________________

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13. Putting It Together

Indicate some choices you tried and discarded, and why. ________________________________

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