

THE WRITING ACADEMY®, LLC · TEACH BIG®

The Song Lyrics Collection

All 14 album songs & all 10 Big Word Detective morphology songs

The Writing Academy®, LLC

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PART ONE · THE ALBUM (14 SONGS)

Opening — Every Great Essay Has Something to Say

the anthem

[Verse 1]

Every great essay has something to say,
A point with a purpose to lead the way.
Start with a thesis, make it clear,
Tell that reader why you're here!
Give me reasons, show me ways,
Build that thinking phrase by phrase.
Find some evidence, strong and true,
Then explain what that proof means to you!

[Chorus]

Say it! Show it! Make it clear!
Give your reader something to hear!
Think it! Link it! Make it strong!
Every little piece belongs!
Thesis! Evidence! Explain away!
Great essays have something to say!
From the first big thought to the final line,
Make it matter every time!

[Verse 2]

Don't just find it, TAP that proof!
Then use your THINKING to raise the roof!
Make an inference, connect the clues,
Show the reader the thinking you choose.
Take that meaning one step more,
Find the BIG idea worth writing for.
When your thinking reaches beyond just you,
That's when great writing really comes through!

[Rhyme Break]

What's my point? THESIS! What backs it up? EVIDENCE!
What does it mean? EXPLAIN! What did I learn? USE MY BRAIN!
What's the big idea when I'm through?
MAKE IT MATTER TO ME AND YOU!

[Final Chorus]

Say it! Show it! Make it clear!
Pull that reader close and near!
Think it! Link it! Make it shine!
Build that essay line by line!
A point with purpose, proof that's strong,
Thinking that shows why it belongs.
Then close it out in a powerful way,
EVERY GREAT ESSAY HAS SOMETHING TO SAY!
Find it! TAP it! THINK it through!
Explain the meaning, make it new!
And when that BIG idea flies away,

MAKE IT MATTER EVERY DAY!

Every great essay, has something to say!

Writing Process Drill

the drafting chant

[Opening Cadence]

Writers ready?

WRITERS READY!

Brains switched on?

BRAINS SWITCHED ON!

Step by step!

WRITE IT RIGHT!

Left! Left!

LEFT-RIGHT-LEFT!

Writing process!

STEP BY STEP!

[The Writing Process Drill]

Read with prosody, leave some tracks

Read with prosody, leave some tracks

Shape the prompt, and answer back

Shape the prompt, and answer back

Write the thesis to convince

Write the thesis to convince

Show them proof called evidence

Show them proof called evidence

Bring together, signals find

Bring together, signals find

From the text and from my mind

From the text and from my mind

Relate it to all who read

Relate it to all who read

Let my writing meet a need

Let my writing meet a need

[Closing Cadence]

Read it!

TRACK IT!

Shape it!

ANSWER BACK!

Thesis!

MAKE IT CLEAR!

Evidence!

PROOF RIGHT HERE!

Text and mind!

BRING THEM THROUGH!

Relate it!

MAKE IT TRUE!

Who can write?

WE CAN WRITE!

Who can think?

WE CAN THINK!

Build that brain!

LINK BY LINK!

LEFT! LEFT! LEFT-RIGHT-LEFT!

THINK IT STRONG AND WRITE IT BEST!

LEFT! LEFT! LEFT-RIGHT-LEFT!

WRITING PROCESS, STEP BY STEP!

Three Pieces to a Thesis

thesis

[Intro - counting beat]

One, two, three! There's a thesis recipe!
One, two, three! Come and build it up with me!
Three little pieces, that's all we need,
Find 'em, mark 'em, then we read!
TOPIC! CHARGE! ANSWER!
ONE, TWO, THREE!
THREE PIECES TO A THESIS!

[Verse 1 - The Topic]

First comes the TOPIC, what are we talking about?
Find that important noun, circle it out!
Make a circle, round and round.
The noun of importance is what we found!
Topic, topic, circle me! That's piece number ONE of THREE!

[Verse 2 - The Charge]

Next comes the CHARGE, what must I do?
Look for the important verb that gives me the clue!
Make a box! Four straight sides!
The verb of importance is hiding inside!
Charge, charge, box me in! Piece number TWO, now we begin!

[Verse 3 - The Answer]

Now comes the piece that belongs to ME!
The prompt doesn't give it, it's what I THINK it should be!
The ANSWER TO THE CHARGE comes from the author's mind.
So make a triangle, there's piece number THREE to find!
Answer, answer, triangle me! Now I've got all ONE-TWO-THREE!

[Where Does It Come From]

TOPIC from the PROMPT! Circle!
CHARGE from the PROMPT! Box!
ANSWER from the AUTHOR! Triangle!
Prompt! Prompt! Author! Prompt! Prompt! Author!
First two are GIVEN, the last one is MINE!
Put all three together, AND MY THESIS WILL SHINE!

[Big Chorus]

ONE, TWO, THREE! THESIS RECIPE!
TOPIC! What's it about?
CHARGE! What must I figure out?
ANSWER! That part comes from me!
THREE PIECES! THAT'S A THESIS! ONE, TWO, THREE!
Circle the noun! Box the verb! Triangle the answer in your own words!
TOPIC plus CHARGE plus ANSWER makes a THESIS, ONE, TWO, THREE!

[Shape Break]

Circle! NOUN! Box! VERB! Triangle! ANSWER!
CIRCLE, TOPIC! BOX, CHARGE! TRIANGLE, ANSWER!
ONE! TWO! THREE! THAT'S MY THESIS RECIPE!

[Verse 4 - Put It Together]

The prompt gives me two pieces, I bring number three.
It asks me what to think about, but the answer comes from me!
The TOPIC tells the subject. The CHARGE tells what to do.
The ANSWER tells my thinking, NOW MY THESIS IS BRAND NEW!
Not just copying the prompt, not just words that I can see,
I add my own answer to complete the three!

[Final Chorus]

ONE, TWO, THREE! THESIS RECIPE!
TOPIC is the NOUN, circle it around!
CHARGE is the VERB, box the action word!
ANSWER is MY THINKING, triangle number three!
Put 'em all together, THAT'S A THESIS, YES INDEED!
Circle! Box! Triangle!
Build it up and there you go, three little pieces make your thinking SHOW!
ONE! TWO! THREE! THREE PIECES TO A THESIS!

TREES — Grow a Great Essay

essay structure

[Intro]

Ready to grow a great essay? Let's plant some TREES!

[Chorus]

T-R-E-E-S, grow your essay, if you please!

Thesis, Reasons, Evidence too,

Explanation, Significance, that's what strong writers do!

T-R-E-E-S, grow your essay with TREES!

[Verse 1 - T]

T is for THESIS, address the prompt first!

Say what you think in a clear, strong burst!

[Verse 2 - R]

R is for REASONS, and WHY you are right!

Give strong reasons, make your essay bright!

[Verse 3 - E]

First E is EVIDENCE, proof from the text!

Show me the part that comes up next!

[Verse 4 - E]

Second E, EXPLANATION, don't make them guess!

Tell how your evidence proves your best!

[Verse 5 - S]

S is SIGNIFICANCE, the big idea!

Why does it matter? Make it clear!

[Breakdown - call and response]

What do we plant for a great essay? TREES!

T means? THESIS! R means? REASONS! E means? EVIDENCE! E means? EXPLAIN! S means? SIGNIFICANCE!

[Final Chorus]

T-R-E-E-S, grow your essay, if you please!

Thesis, Reasons, Evidence too,

Explanation, Significance, that's what strong writers do!

T-R-E-E-S, grow your essay with TREES!

[Outro]

Plant your TREES and watch them grow, a great essay, top to bottom, row by row!

Reasons or Ways

reasons

[Intro - Call and Response]

When you read a prompt, what do you do?

Spot the clue! Know what to do!

If it asks WHY?

Reasons!

If it asks HOW?

Ways!

Spot the clue! Know what to do! WHY means REASONS! HOW means WAYS!

[Chorus]

WHY, WHY, WHY? Give me reasons, tell me why!

HOW, HOW, HOW? Show the ways, tell me how!

Spot the clue! Know what to do!

WHY means REASONS! HOW means WAYS!

Then when I'm ready to have my say,

Hear ye! Hear ye! Reasons are near me!

Hear ye! Hear ye! Ways are near me!

Now I know just what to say!

[Verse 1 - Listen for Why]

If I see IMPORTANCE, Why!

If I see SIGNIFICANCE, Why!

If I see MOST LIKELY, Why!

If I see REASONS, Why!

And if the prompt comes right out and simply asks me WHY,

WHY means reasons, reasons tell why!

Get those reasons ready, here comes my reply!

Hear ye! Hear ye! Reasons are near me!

I thought it through, here's my reason for you!

[Chorus]

WHY, WHY, WHY? Give me reasons, tell me why!

HOW, HOW, HOW? Show the ways, tell me how!

Spot the clue! Know what to do!

WHY means REASONS! HOW means WAYS!

Hear ye! Hear ye! Reasons are near me!

Hear ye! Hear ye! Ways are near me!

Read it! Think it! Know what to say!

[Verse 2 - Listen for How]

If I see CONTRIBUTES, How!

If I see INFLUENCES, How!

If I see REVEALS, How!

If I see EFFECTS, How!

If I see WAYS, How!

And if the prompt comes right out and simply asks me HOW,

HOW means ways, show how they connect!

One thing and another, what is the effect?

Hear ye! Hear ye! Ways are near me!

This, and this, connect like this!

[Bridge - The Big Difference]

Why? Reasons! How? Ways!

Why? Reasons! How? Ways!
WHY tells REASONS! HOW tells WAYS!
Reasons tell WHY! Ways tell HOW!
Read that prompt, you know it now!

[Verse 3 - Clue Word Challenge]

Importance! Why, reasons!
Contributes! How, ways!
Significance! Why, reasons!
Influences! How, ways!
Most likely! Why, reasons!
Reveals! How, ways!
Why! Reasons! How! Ways!
Why! Reasons! How! Ways!

[Final Chorus]

WHY, WHY, WHY? Give me reasons, tell me why!
HOW, HOW, HOW? Show the ways, tell me how!
Spot the clue! Know what to do!
WHY means REASONS! HOW means WAYS!
Hear ye! Hear ye! Reasons are near me!
Hear ye! Hear ye! Ways are near me!
Spot the clue! Think it through!
Read that prompt, you know what to do!
Why? Reasons! How? Ways!
Hear ye! Hear ye! I know what to say!

Leave Some Tracks

evidence (TRACKS)

[Verse 1]

Got my boots on, passage in hand,
Lookin' for clues all across the land.
Every little detail leaves a mark,
Follow those TRACKS and light that spark.
If I can TAP it, I can use it,
If I can find it, I can prove it.
Evidence leads where thinkers go,
Follow those TRACKS and let it show!

[Chorus]

Leave some TRACKS, leave some TRACKS,
Find that evidence, bring it back!
TAP what you find, THINK what it means,
Follow those clues through every scene.
Leave some TRACKS, don't lose your way,
Evidence helps us know what to say.
TAP it, THINK it, make it connect,
TRACKS lead the way to what comes next!

[Verse 2]

T is for TIME, what age, what day?
History and culture can show us the way.
R is REACTIONS, what happened then?
Solutions, effects, how it all had to end.
A is ACTIONS, trouble on track,
Problems and conflicts and causes come back.
C is CHARACTERS, CONCEPTS, CREATURES too,
The ones making choices and seeing them through.

[Country Turnaround]

Who did what? What happened when?
What caused trouble? What fixed it again?
Keep on ridin', don't turn back,
Every good reader leaves some TRACKS!

[Verse 3]

K is KEY KNOWLEDGE, unlock the door,
Important information helps us learn more.
S is the SETTING, look all around,
Scenery and senses, sights and sounds.
Time and reactions, actions we see,
Characters and concepts and creatures may be,
Key knowledge, setting, all six on the map,
THAT'S THE EVIDENCE WE REACH OUT AND TAP!

[Chorus]

Leave some TRACKS, leave some TRACKS,
Find that evidence, bring it back!
TAP what you find, THINK what it means,
Follow those clues through every scene.
Leave some TRACKS, don't lose your way,
Evidence helps us know what to say.

TAP it, THINK it, make it connect,
TRACKS lead the way to what comes next!

[Bridge]

I don't just grab any words I see,
I pick the proof that matters to me.
I TAP the evidence, then I THINK,
What does it mean? What is the link?
Evidence first, inference next,
TAP from the passage, THINK past the text!

[Final Roll Call]

T! TIME! R! REACTIONS! A! ACTIONS!
C! CHARACTERS, CONCEPTS, CREATURES!
K! KEY KNOWLEDGE! S! SETTING!
T-R-A-C-K-S, six kinds of evidence help us do our best!
Reach out and TAP it, THINK it through,
Let those TRACKS tell you what to do!
Leave some TRACKS, leave some TRACKS,
Good strong thinking follows facts!
TAP what you find, THINK what you know,
Follow those TRACKS wherever they go!

CSI — Evidence Is on the Way

evidence relevance

Hey! Hey! Hey!
Are you ready? Let's find some evidence!
Hey! Hey! Hey!
Evidence is on the way
Find the proof and make it fit
CSI will help with it
Connect S support I infer
Show your thinking loud and clear
Hey! Hey! Hey! Evidence is on the way
Connect support infer today
CSI will lead the way
I found a clue, I found a fact
Now I've got to connect it back
How does this evidence fit what I say?
Connect it, connect it, show the way
I have an answer
I have a thought
Now I need the proof I sought
Find a detail
Find a clue
Use that evidence to prove what's true
Now I've got the evidence
But I'm not done yet
What does it mean?
What does it show?
Read the clue, think it through
Tell what the evidence means to you
What do we do with evidence?
C means connect
S means support
I means infer
Connect support
infer
Make your thinking loud and clear
Find it, use it, think it through
Tell us what the evidence
Proves to you
Hey! Hey! Evidence is on the way
Hey!
C-S-I / WORD OVERLAY CUE SHEET (when each is SAID/SUNG)
Whole 'CSI' said:
0:12.54 "CSI"
0:24.94 "CSI"
C-S-I letters spelled (chorus 'C-Connect S-Support I-Infer'):
line [0:14.64-0:16.84]: Connect S support I infer
0:14.64 Connect
0:15.12 S
0:15.64 support
0:16.14 I
0:16.44 infer
0:16.84 Show
line [0:22.18-0:24.94]: Connect support infer today
0:22.18 Connect

0:23.18 support

0:23.82 infer

0:24.32 today

0:24.94 CSI

BREAKDOWN spell-out ('C means connect / S means support / I means infer'):

1:07.84 C means connect

1:09.28 S means support

1:10.36 I means infer

CONNECT / SUPPORT / INFER (verse moves):

CONNECT: 0:14.64, 0:22.18, 0:30.12, 0:34.24, 0:34.50, 1:08.86, 1:11.84

SUPPORT: 0:15.64, 0:23.18, 1:09.92, 1:12.42

INFER: 0:16.44, 0:23.82, 1:11.18, 1:13.10

Deep Facts — Explanation Groove

explanation

[Spoken Intro - over a beat]

Got some evidence? That's a start.

Now make it matter. Do your part.

Don't just drop it. Don't just state it.

Take that thinking... EXPLAIN IT!

[Verse 1 - Start It Up]

Before I explain, I know where to go.

Four little words get the thinking to flow:

THIS... THAT... THESE... THOSE...

Slide into the sentence, watch the meaning grow.

THIS... THAT... THESE... THOSE...

Point back to the evidence, then tell what you know.

This shows... That means... These details tell... Those facts help explain it well!

[Chorus]

WOW! WOW! WOW! I'M EXPLAINING NOW!

Take what I know and break it on down.

Stretch that thinking, make it make sense.

Show the connection, show the evidence!

WOW! WOW! WOW! I'M EXPLAINING NOW!

One fact isn't finished till I tell you HOW!

[Verse 2 - The First Four]

Here come the first four, ready, set, roll!

D, DEFINITION, tell what it means, clear up the word, make the idea clean.

E, EXAMPLE, show me one case, put that idea right in its place.

E, EXPERT TESTIMONY, bring in a voice who knows the stuff and backs up the choice.

P, PROCESS, step after step, what came first? And what came next?

Mean it. Show it. Quote it. Go through it.

DEEP... Now we're getting into it!

[Short Hook]

THIS! THAT! THESE! THOSE!

That's how explanation grows!

THIS! THAT! THESE! THOSE!

Point to the proof, then tell what it shows!

[Verse 3 - Facts, Analogy, Compare]

Now we hit the middle, three more ways.

Different kinds of thinking for different days.

F, FACTS, give something true. Dates, numbers, details, bring the proof through.

A, ANALOGY, make something new feel easier to understand, connect it to something you already knew.

C, COMPARE AND CONTRAST, line them up. What is the same? What is different? Now look close, what does that comparison teach us?

Facts tell. Analogies connect. Comparisons reveal what we might not expect.

[Chorus]

WOW! WOW! WOW! I'M EXPLAINING NOW!

Take what I know and break it on down.

Not just evidence, tell what it means!

Build that thinking in between!

WOW! WOW! WOW! I'M EXPLAINING NOW!

I've got the proof, now watch me tell you how!

[Verse 4 - The Big Finish]

Two more left, and they're powerful too.

One shows what changed. One tells what happened to you.

T, TIPPING POINT, one thing happens, then something changes. Cause leads to effect, and the whole situation rearranges.

Because THIS happened, THAT happened next. That's a tipping point, CAUSE, AND, EFFECT!

S, STORY, tell a little moment. Show what occurred. Let an event help explain your words.

A person. A moment. A choice. A result. Sometimes a story makes the meaning jump out!

[Deep Facts Rhythm Break]

D, Definition! Meaning.

E, Example! Show it.

E, Expert! Who knows it?

P, Process! Step through it.

F, Facts! True stuff.

A, Analogy! It's like...

C, Compare and Contrast! Same? Different?

T, Tipping Point! Cause and Effect.

S, Story! What happened?

D... E... E... P... F... A... C... T... S...

DEEP FACTS! NINE WAYS TO MAKE THINKING CLEAR!

[Bridge - Don't Leave It Hanging]

Don't leave your evidence sitting all alone.

Don't make your reader figure it out on their own.

You found the proof, NOW DO SOMETHING WITH IT!

Explain the meaning. Explain the link. Show the reader how you think.

Evidence says: HERE'S WHAT I FOUND.

Explanation says: HERE'S WHY IT COUNTS.

[Big Chorus]

WOW! WOW! WOW! I'M EXPLAINING NOW!

Definition, Example, Expert knows how.

Process, Facts, Analogy too.

Compare and Contrast shows another view.

Tipping Point, CAUSE AND EFFECT!

Story, TELL WHAT HAPPENED NEXT!

WOW! WOW! WOW! I'M EXPLAINING NOW!

Nine different choices, DEEP FACTS SHOWS HOW!

[Final Build]

This... That... These... Those...

THIS, THAT, THESE, THOSE!

POINT TO THE PROOF, TELL WHAT IT SHOWS!

WOW! WOW! WOW! I'M EXPLAINING NOW!

DEEP FACTS! DEEP THINKING! MAKE IT CLEAR!

WOW! WOW! WOW! I'M EXPLAINING NOW!

Stir It Up — Inference Recipe

inference

[Intro]

Evidence in, thinking too,
Stir it together, make something new!
Clues from the text plus what I see,
That's an inference made by ME!
Independent! That's my view.
Evidence plus thinking makes meaning new!

[Chorus]

Stir it up! Stir it up! Mix it all around!
Evidence and thinking, look what I found!
ME means INDEPENDENT!
WE means SIGNIFICANT!

[Verse 2]

Now make it bigger, take it one more way,
Add your experience to what the evidence says.
Think beyond yourself, make the meaning grow,
From ME to WE, now everybody knows!
Significant! Reflective! Bigger thinking too!
Evidence plus experience can make a truth for you...
AND OTHERS TOO!

[Chorus]

Stir it up! Stir it up! Mix it all around!
Evidence and thinking, look what I found!
ME means INDEPENDENT!
WE means SIGNIFICANT!

[Final Hook]

Evidence plus thinking, INFERENCE!
Evidence plus experience, SIGNIFICANCE!
ME to WE, watch my thinking grow!
STIR IT UP, AND THERE YOU GO!

Up My Thinking Tree

thinking levels

[Verse 1]

Start down low where thinkers grow,
One little step, then up we go.
Build my brain and build my mind,
One new level at a time.
Red is Foundational, I do what I'm shown.
Orange is Emergent, I'm trying on my own.
Yellow is Visible, my connection can be seen.
Independent, I infer, and that is green!

[Chorus]

Red, orange, yellow, green,
Climbing up my thinking tree!
Step by step, my thinking grows,
Higher, stronger, up it goes!
Red, orange, yellow, green,
Then BLUE flies free!

[Verse 2]

The first four levels grow with me,
Branch by branch upon my tree.
But when my thinking reaches BLUE,
It's bigger than just what I knew.
Reflective thinking spreads its wings,
A Bluebird Moment is what it brings.
It leaves my tree and flies away,
A thought for everyone, every day.

[Final Chorus]

Red, I follow! Orange, I try!
Yellow, connections catch my eye!
Green, I infer independently!
Blue, my thinking flies FREE!
Build my brain, build my mind,
One new level at a time!
Four on my tree, then BLUE flies free!
THAT'S HOW THINKERS GROW!

Word Garden

vocabulary

[soft intro — spoken gently, music low]

Let's grow our words together... breathe... and listen.

[Verse — spoken, calm, one word at a time with space]

Community... a group of people who live and help in the same place.

Region... a part of a land with its own features and feel.

Resource... something useful we use — like water, wood, or sunlight.

Geography... the study of the places that make up our world.

[soft musical rest]

[Verse — spoken, calm]

Harbor... a safe place by the water where ships can rest.

Climate... the usual weather of a place, over a long, long time.

Tradition... something special, passed gently from one generation to the next.

Evidence... the proof that shows an idea is true.

[gentle outro — spoken, fading]

Community... region... resource... evidence... let the words settle in. Good thinking today.

Conclusion — The Three R's

conclusion

[Verse 1]

When my writing's nearly done,
Three little Rs will make it strong!
R number one, RESTATE! Say the thesis a different way.
Exchange some words, rearrange the flow,
Keep the BIG point so the reader still knows!
R number two, REFER! Point back to the proof you gave.
Don't list every fact all over again,
Say "this evidence," "these details," and bring it back in!

[Chorus]

Restate! Refer! Reflect!
Three little Rs I won't forget!
Restate the point, refer to the proof,
Then REFLECT and tell the BIG truth!

[Verse 2]

R number three, REFLECTION! Now take that thinking in a BIG direction!
Lesson, moral, theme, or thought,
What's the BIG idea this writing taught?
Here comes the moment, get ready for flight,
BLUEBIRD MOMENT! MAKE IT TAKE FLIGHT!
It leaves my tree, flies tree to tree,
Because this thought isn't only for me!

[Final Chorus]

Restate! Refer! Reflect!
That's how conclusions make an effect!
Say it again, point back to the proof,
Then give EVERYONE the lasting truth!
Bluebird flying, tree to tree,
Make it matter to you and me!
THREE Rs CLOSE IT RIGHT,
RESTATE! REFER! REFLECT!

Sweep It Clean

editing

[Intro]

Pencil down? Not yet, my friend —
A great writer edits to the very end!

[Verse 1]

I wrote my draft, I said what I mean,
But before it's done, I gotta sweep it clean.
Capital letters standing tall,
End marks catching the end of it all.

[Pre-Chorus]

Subject and verb — do they agree?
Sun and raindrop, Sentence Weather, can't you see?

[Chorus]

Sweep it, sweep it, make it clean!
Best little edit you've ever seen.
Catch the mistake, fix it right,
Make your writing shine so bright!
E-D-I-T — edit! (edit!)
You're not done 'til you've said it.
Sweep it, sweep it, make it clean —
Now that's a writer's editing machine!

[Verse 2]

Spell those words the way they go,
High-frequency friends I already know.
Quotation marks around what they said —
Match the passage, use your head.

[Pre-Chorus]

Notice it, choose it, show what you see,
Own your fix and defend it — that's the key!

[Chorus]

Sweep it, sweep it, make it clean!
Best little edit you've ever seen.
Catch the mistake, fix it right,
Make your writing shine so bright!
E-D-I-T — edit! (edit!)
You're not done 'til you've said it.
Sweep it, sweep it, make it clean —
Now that's a writer's editing machine!

[Bridge]

Read it slow, read it twice,
An editor's eye is worth the price.
One more sweep before you're through —
Your very best writing is up to you!

[Chorus]

Sweep it, sweep it, make it clean!
Best little edit you've ever seen.

Catch the mistake, fix it right,
Make your writing shine so bright!

[Outro]
Sweep it clean... edit! Make it shine!

Make It Stronger

revising

[Intro]

My first draft's done — but I'm not through,
'cause a good writer knows what revising can do!

[Verse 1]

Editing fixes the spelling and the rest,
but REVISING is how I make my writing its best.
I move my ideas, I make them all fit —
I don't just correct it, I strengthen it!

[Pre-Chorus]

So how do I do it? Let me show you the way —
just R-E-A-D and you're on your way!

[Chorus]

REARRANGE it! Move it around!
EXCHANGE it! A stronger word found!
ADD it! More detail, more proof!
DELETE it! Cut what I don't use!
Read it, revise it, make it strong —
that's how my writing grows along!
R-E-A-D — revise! Revise!
Watch my writing come alive!

[Verse 2]

A boring word? I'll trade it for a bright one.
Missing a detail? Watch me add the right one.
Out of order? I'll rearrange the flow.
Doesn't belong? Out the door it goes!

[Pre-Chorus]

Notice it, choose it, show what you see,
own it and defend it — revising's the key!

[Chorus]

REARRANGE it! Move it around!
EXCHANGE it! A stronger word found!
ADD it! More detail, more proof!
DELETE it! Cut what I don't use!
Read it, revise it, make it strong —
that's how my writing grows along!
R-E-A-D — revise! Revise!
Watch my writing come alive!

[Bridge]

Editing makes it correct and clean,
revising makes it the best it's ever been.
Two different jobs, and I love them both —
that's how a writer grows!

[Chorus]

REARRANGE it! Move it around!
EXCHANGE it! A stronger word found!

ADD it! More detail, more proof!
DELETE it! Cut what I don't use!

[Outro]
Rearrange it, exchange it, add it, take it away —
I revise my writing every single day!

PART TWO · BIG WORD DETECTIVE MORPHOLOGY SERIES (10 SONGS)

Big Word Detective #1 — Prefixes: Numbers & Size

hip-hop

[Intro]

Put on your magnifying glass, we're cracking words wide open.
The Big Word Detective is on the case!

[Pre-Chorus]

When a word looks HUGE, don't run away —
find the prefix up front, and it'll show you the way!

[Chorus]

I'm the Big Word Detective — case cracked!
Break it apart, take a big word back!
The part up front holds a clue to the size —
count it, measure it, open your eyes!

[Verse 1]

UNI means ONE — a unicycle, one wheel and you're done!
MONO means ONE too — a monorail runs on one track for you!
BI means TWO — a bicycle rolls on a two-wheel crew!
TRI means THREE — a triangle's got three sides, can't you see?

[Chorus]

I'm the Big Word Detective — case cracked!
Break it apart, take a big word back!
The part up front holds a clue to the size —
count it, measure it, open your eyes!

[Verse 2]

POLY means MANY — a polygon's got sides a-plenty!
SEMI means HALF, or PARTLY — a semicircle's half a circle, smartly!
MICRO means SMALL — a microscope makes the tiny look tall!
MACRO means LARGE — the whole big picture, take charge!

[Bridge]

Meet a monster word and don't know what to do?
Chop off the front, find the number or the size, and the meaning breaks through!
UNI, MONO one! BI two! TRI three! POLY many!
SEMI half! MICRO small! MACRO large — now you've got PLENTY!

[Chorus]

I'm the Big Word Detective — case cracked!
Break it apart, take a big word back!

[Outro]

Case cracked! Big Word Detective, signing off!

Big Word Detective #2 — Prefixes: Where & Which Way

hip-hop

[Intro]

Detective's back on the beat — which WAY did that word go?
Follow the prefix up front, and the direction will show!

[Chorus]

I'm the Big Word Detective — case cracked!
Break it apart, take a big word back!
The part up front tells you WHERE to go —
under, over, across — now you know!

[Verse 1]

SUB means UNDER — a submarine dives down below!
SUPER means ABOVE — a superhero steals the show!
INTER means BETWEEN — the internet links me to you!
TRANS means ACROSS — transportation carries us through!

[Chorus]

I'm the Big Word Detective — case cracked!
Break it apart, take a big word back!
The part up front tells you WHERE to go —
under, over, across — now you know!

[Verse 2]

CIRCUM means AROUND — I circumnavigate the sea!
MID means the MIDDLE — it's midday, come count with me!
EX means OUT — the exit's the way to go!
PRE means BEFORE — the preview starts the show!
POST means AFTER — the postgame's the last we'll know!

[Bridge]

Sub under, super above, inter between!
Trans across, circum around — you're a word-cracking machine!
Ex is out, mid is middle, pre before, post after —
find the front, find the way, and fill the room with laughter!

[Chorus]

I'm the Big Word Detective — case cracked!
Break it apart, take a big word back!

[Outro]

Case cracked! Big Word Detective, on the move!

Big Word Detective #3 — Prefixes: No & Not

hip-hop

[Intro]

Detective's back, and something's NOT right —
when a prefix says NO, we bring it to light!

[Chorus]

I'm the Big Word Detective — case cracked!
Break it apart, take a big word back!
The part up front can flip it around —
NO, NOT, AGAINST — hear that sound!

[Verse 1]

UN means NOT — unhappy isn't happy, it's true!
NON means NOT — a nonstop train won't stop for you!
IN and IM mean NOT — impossible can't be done!
DIS means the OPPOSITE — disappear, and then there's none!

[Chorus]

I'm the Big Word Detective — case cracked!
Break it apart, take a big word back!
The part up front can flip it around —
NO, NOT, AGAINST — hear that sound!

[Verse 2]

ANTI means AGAINST — antifreeze fights the cold!
CONTRA means AGAINST too — contradict, be bold!
MIS means WRONGLY — a mistake went the wrong way!
DE means DOWN or UNDO — deflate, the air won't stay!

[Bridge]

Un not, non not, in not, dis opposite!
Anti against, contra against — you're on top of it!
Mis is wrongly, de is undo or down —
flip the meaning at the front, best detective in town!

[Chorus]

I'm the Big Word Detective — case cracked!
Break it apart, take a big word back!

[Outro]

Case cracked! Big Word Detective — NOT done yet!

Big Word Detective #4 — Roots: Words & Senses

country

[Intro]

Way down deep where a word begins,
the ROOT is where the meaning lives within.
Dig it up, and you'll always see —
the root of the word is the heart of the tree.

[Chorus]

I'm the Big Word Detective, diggin' in the ground!
The root of the word is where the meaning's found!
Words and senses, that's the key —
dig down deep and read with me!

[Verse 1]

GRAPH means WRITE — an autograph's your name!
SCRIB means WRITE too — a scribble's the same!
DICT means SAY — you dictate every word!
AUDI means HEAR — an audience heard!

[Chorus]

I'm the Big Word Detective, diggin' in the ground!
The root of the word is where the meaning's found!
Words and senses, that's the key —
dig down deep and read with me!

[Verse 2]

PHON means SOUND — a telephone rings clear!
SPECT means LOOK — inspect it, look right here!
SENS means FEEL — your senses come alive!
TELE means FAR — from far away we drive!

[Bridge]

Graph write, scribe write, dict say, audi hear!
Phon sound, spect look, sens feel — it's all so clear!
Log is word, phil is love, dig down and you'll know —
the root is where the meaning starts to grow!

[Chorus]

I'm the Big Word Detective, diggin' in the ground!
The root of the word is where the meaning's found!

[Outro]

Dig it up! Big Word Detective, root and all!

Big Word Detective #5 — Roots: Life & Earth

country

[Intro]

Roots run deep where the big words grow —
about life and the earth, here's what to know!

[Chorus]

I'm the Big Word Detective, diggin' in the ground!
The root of the word is where the meaning's found!
Life and earth and sky above —
dig down deep to the words we love!

[Verse 1]

BIO means LIFE — biology's alive!
GENE means BIRTH — where generations thrive!
GEO means EARTH — geography's the ground!
TERR means EARTH too — territory all around!

[Chorus]

I'm the Big Word Detective, diggin' in the ground!
The root of the word is where the meaning's found!
Life and earth and sky above —
dig down deep to the words we love!

[Verse 2]

PHOTO means LIGHT — a photograph so bright!
LUC means LIGHT too — translucent in the light!
CHRONO means TIME — a chronological line!
OMNI means ALL — omnivores dine just fine!

[Bridge]

Bio life, gene birth, geo and terr the earth!
Photo luc are light, chrono's time from birth!
Omni is all, bene good, dig down and you'll see —
pathy is feeling, the roots are the key!

[Chorus]

I'm the Big Word Detective, diggin' in the ground!
The root of the word is where the meaning's found!

[Outro]

Dig it up! Big Word Detective, deep as can be!

Big Word Detective #6 — Roots: People & Power

bluegrass

[Intro]

Roll up your sleeves, there's work to be done —
these roots are about PEOPLE gettin' things done!

[Chorus]

I'm the Big Word Detective, diggin' in the ground!
The root of the word is where the meaning's found!
People and power, hand in hand —
dig down deep and understand!

[Verse 1]

DUC means LEAD — a conductor leads the band!
PORT means CARRY — transport it across the land!
MANU means HAND — manual work done by hand!
MAND means ORDER — a command, you understand!

[Chorus]

I'm the Big Word Detective, diggin' in the ground!
The root of the word is where the meaning's found!
People and power, hand in hand —
dig down deep and understand!

[Verse 2]

JUR means LAW — a jury knows what's right!
GREG means GROUP — congregate, unite!
CRED means BELIEVE — incredible but true!
FID means FAITH — be faithful through and through!

[Bridge]

Duc lead, port carry, manu is the hand!
Mand order, jur law, greg's the group so grand!
Cred believe, fid faith, flex bends and mit sends —
dig down deep, and the meaning never ends!

[Chorus]

I'm the Big Word Detective, diggin' in the ground!
The root of the word is where the meaning's found!

[Outro]

That's a wrap! Big Word Detective, roots and all!

Big Word Detective #7 — Suffixes: People & Doers

pop

[Intro]

Snap it on the end and watch it change,
a SUFFIX at the back rearranges the range!
Add it to a word and now you'll see —
a suffix can tell you WHO that word will be!

[Chorus]

Big Word Detective, pop it on the end!
A suffix names the person, the doer, the friend!
Who does the action? Who's it gonna be?
Add a suffix on the end and now you'll see!

[Verse 1]

-ER is one who does it — a teacher teaches class!
-OR is one who does it too — an actor's got the pass!
-IST is one who's skilled at it — an artist paints with flair!
-IAN means skilled in something — a musician's everywhere!

[Chorus]

Big Word Detective, pop it on the end!
A suffix names the person, the doer, the friend!
Who does the action? Who's it gonna be?
Add a suffix on the end and now you'll see!

[Verse 2]

-EER is one who works at it — an engineer, so bright!
-EE is one who receives it — an employee clocks in right!
-ANT is one who does it — an assistant lends a hand!
-ENT is one who does it — a student's gonna understand!

[Bridge]

-er, -or, the one who does,
-ist, -ian, so skilled because!
-eer, -ee, -ant, -ent,
a suffix names the person, that's just what it meant!

[Verse 3]

-STER is one who's like it — a youngster full of cheer!
-LING is a little one — a duckling waddles near!
Ten little endings and they all agree,
a suffix on the end tells WHO it's gonna be!

[Chorus]

Big Word Detective, pop it on the end!
A suffix names the person, the doer, the friend!

[Outro]

Pop it on! Big Word Detective — who will it be?

Big Word Detective #8 — Suffixes: States & Qualities

pop

[Intro]

Take an action, take a way you feel,
snap on a suffix and it turns real!
Not a person this time, but a thing you can name,
a state, a quality, part of the game!

[Chorus]

Big Word Detective, pop it on the end!
Turn it to a THING, a state or a blend!
How does it feel? What has it become?
Add a suffix on the end and now it's one!

[Verse 1 - say the letters, then the sound]

T-I-O-N says SHUN! An action's underway!
S-I-O-N says SHUN! A decision made today!
M-E-N-T says MENT! Excitement fills the air!
N-E-S-S says NESS! The kindness that you share!

[Chorus]

Big Word Detective, pop it on the end!
Turn it to a THING, a state or a blend!
How does it feel? What has it become?
Add a suffix on the end and now it's one!

[Verse 2 - say the letters, then the sound]

I-T-Y says IH-TEE! Your ability is real!
A-N-C-E says ANSS! Importance that you feel!
E-N-C-E says ENSS! The silence in the hall!
S-H-I-P says SHIP! A friendship holds it all!

[Bridge]

SHUN and SHUN, act and state,
MENT and NESS, quality is great!
IH-TEE, ANSS, ENSS, and SHIP,
turn it to a thing and take a trip!

[Verse 3 - say the letters, then the sound]

H-O-O-D says HOOD! Your childhood, full of play!
D-O-M says DUM! The freedom of the day!
Ten little endings turn a word to a thing,
a state or a quality, hear it ring!

[Chorus]

Big Word Detective, pop it on the end!
Turn it to a THING, a state or a blend!

[Outro]

Pop it on! Big Word Detective, what's it become?

Big Word Detective #9 — Suffixes: Describers

pop

[Intro]

Snap it on the end and describe the thing,
a suffix paints a picture, hear it ring!
Not a person, not a state, but a way to say
what something is like, in a colorful way!

[Chorus]

Big Word Detective, pop it on the end!
Describe it now, that's the message to send!
What is it like? What does it do?
Add a suffix on the end and it describes it for you!

[Verse 1]

-FUL means FULL of joy — a joyful, cheerful day!
-LESS means WITHOUT it — a fearless heart, hooray!
-ABLE means CAN BE done — a lovable little pup!
-OUS means HAVING lots — a famous, joyous cup!

[Chorus]

Big Word Detective, pop it on the end!
Describe it now, that's the message to send!
What is it like? What does it do?
Add a suffix on the end and it describes it for you!

[Verse 2]

-IVE means TENDING TO — creative, all day long!
-AL means RELATING TO — a musical, magical song!
-IC means RELATING TO — heroic and so bold!
-Y means HAVING it — a cloudy sky of gold!

[Bridge]

-ful, -less, full or without,
-able, -ous, that's what it's about!
-ive, -al, -ic, and -y,
describe the world, you and I!

[Verse 3]

-ISH means SORT OF like it — a reddish, foolish grin!
Ten little endings and describing is the win!
Pop them on the end and now you'll always see,
a suffix that describes it, just for you and me!

[Chorus]

Big Word Detective, pop it on the end!
Describe it now, that's the message to send!

[Outro]

Pop it on! Big Word Detective — what's it like?

Big Word Detective — Case Files Recap

finale

[Intro]

Case files open, let's review,
every word part, me and you!

[Chorus]

Case closed! Case closed!
We crack the code, that's how it goes!
Front, and middle, and the end,
Big Word Detective, crack it open again!

[Verse 1 - Prefixes, clear and steady]

UNI... means one.
BI... means two.
SUB... means under.
SUPER... means over you!
UN... means not.
DIS... means not, it's true.
Crack the front of the word,
that's what detectives do!

[Chorus]

Case closed! Case closed!
We crack the code, that's how it goes!
Front, and middle, and the end,
Big Word Detective, crack it open again!

[Verse 2 - Roots, clear and steady]

GRAPH... means write.
DICT... means say.
BIO... means life.
GEO... means earth today!
PORT... means carry.
DUC... means lead the way.
The meaning's in the root,
dig down and there it'll stay!

[Chorus]

Case closed! Case closed!
We crack the code, that's how it goes!
Front, and middle, and the end,
Big Word Detective, crack it open again!

[Verse 3 - Suffixes, clear and steady]

E-R... one who does it.
I-S-T... one who knows.
T-I-O-N... says SHUN, that's how the ending goes!
F-U-L... means full of good.
L-E-S-S... means none.
Pop it on the end of the word,
and now the case is done!

[Bridge]

Front means prefix, change the meaning!

Middle's the root, the meaning's leaning!
End means suffix, name the part,
put them together, that's the art!

[Final Chorus]

Case closed! Case closed!
We crack the code, that's how it goes!
Front, and middle, and the end,
Big Word Detective, crack it open again!

[Outro]

Every big word, crack it wide...
case... closed!
