

TEACHER’S GUIDE

**Jesse McCartney—“How Do You Sleep?”
Songwriting Skill—Elaboration**

STUDENT OBJECTIVES

- Identify elaboration with sensory details
- Identify elaboration with incidents and examples
- Use elaboration strategies
- Revise writing to include elaboration
- Evaluate the effect of elaboration on personal writing

RESOURCES AND PREPARATION

- Guided Lyrics – Using Sensory Details, Incidents, and Examples
- Student Activity – Revise Using Elaboration

Additional Online Support:

- www.holtmcdougal.hmhco.com
- www.BlueNoseEd.com

Teach

1. **Introducing Elaboration:** Elaboration is the process of adding further detail to enliven plain declarative statements or ideas. Remind your students that elaboration is important in songwriting, because it allows a songwriter to include information that helps the listener experience the emotion that the song is communicating. If a song declares “I’m worried,” the listener will understand the emotion at a basic level. But if a song describes a loved one waving goodbye from a bus window as he or she heads to the front during wartime, the listener will understand the song on a much more profound level. Tell the students that in songwriting, there are two basic modes of elaboration: **elaboration with sensory detail**, and **elaboration with incidents and examples**.
2. **Teaching Elaboration with Sensory Details:** Ask students to list the five senses (sight, hearing, touch, taste, smell). Explain that sensory details are descriptive details that appeal to one or more of the five senses. Adding sensory details can help songwriters flesh out general statements and help listeners form mental pictures.

EXAMPLE Draw the following chart on the board. Ask the questions and fill in the blanks in the chart. Finally, with the students’ help, revise the original sentence so that it comes alive due to the inclusion of more sensory details.

Original Sentence	What Does the Boy Look Like?	What Sounds Can the Boy Hear?	What Is the Boy Walking On?	What Smells or Tastes Might the Boy Notice?	Rewritten Sentence, Including At Least Three New Sensory Details
<i>The boy walked to the car.</i>					

3. **Teaching Elaboration with Incidents and Examples:** Remind the students that an “incident” is a brief account of a single event. An “example” is a specific person, place, object, or event that illustrates a general statement. Acknowledge that songwriting is often a matter of communicating strong emotions. It is generally not necessary to support one’s arguments by strictly providing evidence, as in a formal essay. But remind the students that even the most emotional songs often describe an incident—a break-up, or the invention of a new dance. And in the verses of a song, songwriters often provide examples that validate the emotional points they are making.

EXAMPLE Draw the following chart on the board, and work through it with the students to invent incidents and examples that support the claims made in the “choruses” in the first column.

“Chorus”	Supporting Incident	Supporting Example
1. “You don’t love me anymore! / You once thought I was funny, but now you think I’m a bore.”	1. “When we went out last Friday night / You were so late, we got in a fight.”	1. “You leave your clothes all over the floor / And when I knock, you won’t answer the door.”
2. “I’m the best rapper in the whole high school / I drop mad knowledge, while the others only drool.”	2.	2.
3. “We’re so in love, it ain’t funny / We don’t even need money.”	3.	3.
4. “When you left me, at first I was sad / But I got used to it, and now I am glad!”	4.	4.
5. “We got guitars, and we’re all good friends / And when we rock, the fun never ends!”	5.	5.

4. **Guided Practice:** How to use the Guided Practice Worksheet

Step 1 Hand out a copy of the worksheet to each student

Step 2 Guide students through the call-out questions. Encourage them to come up with more than one answer to each question.

Step 3 Elaborate! Have students fill in the “Elaboration” chart, using Jesse McCartney’s “How Do You Sleep?” as an inspiration to write lyrics that feature vivid sensory impressions and well-chosen incidents and examples.

Use the “You Try It!” worksheet to help students revise their lyrics to include elaboration.

QUICK CHECK Have students define “elaboration.” Then have them define “sensory details,” “incidents,” and “examples,” and describe how to elaborate upon their lyrics by using all three.

GUIDED PRACTICE

Jesse McCartney—“How Do You Sleep?”

Songwriting Skill - Elaboration

Using Sensory Details, Incidents, and Examples

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Elaboration: the process of adding further detail to plain statements or ideas

Sensory Details: details that appeal to one or more of the five senses

Incident: a brief account of a single event

Example: a specific person, place, object, or even that illustrates a general statement

DIRECTIONS Read the lyrics to “How Do You Sleep?” by Jesse McCartney. Where does this song use sensory details, incidents, and examples? How does the use of these modes of elaboration affect the emotional impact of the song?

Jesse McCartney
“How Do You Sleep?”

Oh-uh oh-uh oh-uh oh
Oh-uh oh-uh oh-uh oh

It's been about a year now
Ain't seen or heard from you
I been missin' you crazy
How do you, how do you sleep
I found the letter you wrote me
It still smells just like you
Damn those sweet memories
How do you, how do you sleep, how do you sleep.

1: Elaboration—Opening Chorus

What incidents and examples does the songwriter use to support the emotional tone of the song? Are there any sensory details? Could more sensory details be added? If so, where?

Tried my best at movin' on have yet to find a girl like you
See things now I didn't before now wishin' I had more time with you,
How do you stay awake knowin' all I do is think of you
All the things we thought about that never will happen again
If I could just see you

2: Elaboration—1st and 2nd Verses

What details help bring the song's dramatic situation to life? Can you think of other details that would fit into this song?

If I had my way I'd come and getcha girl
In your favorite car with the missin' top
Remember 'round my way where we used to park
And did all those things to steal your heart.

It's been about a year now
Ain't seen or heard from you
I been missin' you crazy
How do you, how do you sleep
I found the letter you wrote me
It still smells just like you
Damn those sweet memories
How do you, how do you sleep. (x2)
How do you sleep.

Baby all that I hear from my friends again and again and again
(Come and ask about you, they say)
We saw your girl at the game and damn we gotta say a big mistake by you.
Not only does your body bang but I miss the conversation too
Tell me that you're gettin' more sleep
Can't think can't eat til I come see you

If I had my way I'd come and getcha girl
In your favorite car with the missin' top
Remember 'round my way where we used to park
And did all those things to steal your heart.

It's been about a year now
Ain't seen or heard from you
I been missin' you crazy
How do you, how do you sleep
I found the letter you wrote me
It still smells just like you
Damn those sweet memories
How do you, how do you sleep, how do you sleep.

Oh-uh oh-uh oh-uh oh
Oh-uh oh-uh oh-uh oh

It's been about a year now
Ain't seen or heard from you
I been missin' you crazy
How do you, how do you sleep
I found the letter you wrote me
It still smells just like you
Damn those sweet memories
How do you, how do you sleep. (x2)
How do you sleep.

Oh-uh oh-uh oh-uh oh
Oh-uh oh-uh oh-uh oh

**3: Elaboration—3rd
Verse and End**

What sort of details
does the songwriter
save for last? How do
such details raise the
emotional stakes of the
song?

DIRECTIONS

First, choose lyrics from “How Do You Sleep?” that use sensory details, incidents, and examples. Use these lyrics as models to help you brainstorm ideas for your own lyrics.

Lyrics from “How Do You Sleep?”	My Own Lyrics That Use Sensory Details, Incidents, and Examples

Second, choose lyrics from “How Do You Sleep?” that are more simple and declarative. Revise these lyrics by adding sensory details, incidents, and examples. How does your revision change the emotions that are communicated by the song?

Simple, Declarative Lyrics from “How Do You Sleep?”	My Revision of These Lyrics that Adds Sensory Details, Incidents, and Examples

YOU TRY IT!

Songwriting Skill – Elaboration

GOAL

Elaboration, in songwriting, is the process of adding sensory details, incidents, and examples to lyrics to make them more emotional and vivid.

DIRECTIONS Select lyrics that you have been working on either in this or in previous exercises. Write them in the top box. Use the graphic organizer to revise your writings, first by adding sensory details, and next by imagining an incident or example that would make the lyrics more vivid and emotionally powerful. Then evaluate your revised lyrics.

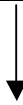
My Lyrics

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Revise - Adding Sensory Details

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Revise - Using Incidents and/or Examples

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Evaluate – What is the impact of elaboration?

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