

UEFA Women's EURO 2022 Anthem Project

Local Anthems

Learning resource for teachers, music groups, football coaches and other group leaders

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INTRODUCTION

Below are some prompts to begin assembling text for lyrics with your groups. These give a useful steer for starting points and ensure that the different songs being written in each host city are different enough in terms of feel and content, but also can be seen as a cohesive body of work that contributes to the RPO's UEFA Women's EURO 2022 Anthem Project.

The prompts are categorised into three groups: **HISTORY, VALUES & VISION.**

The topics within each category have short explanations and a couple of questions which may help you start thinking.

Each prompt should be enough to create a whole song, but you can combine more than one area in your lyrics. Be creative, imaginative and have fun!

You may already have a strong practice for creating lyrics with groups, but if not, there are also some pointers for how to go about creating lyrics with a group.

PROMPTS

1. HISTORY

Useful links:

<https://www.thefa.com/womens-girls-football/history>

- **A FIGURE OR EVENT.**

Focus on a historical character, story or event associated with the ground and gives voice to an unfamiliar piece of local folklore. Are there parallels with values/lessons which are integral to the game now?

- **HIGHS AND LOWS**

Women's Football has a history of highs and lows - from large crowds of paying fans in the 1920s to women being banned from playing on certain grounds throughout most of the last century. How does this story of struggle of the women's game reflect the game itself?

- **STRUGGLE**

Since the formation of the WFA in the early 70s, the women's game has had to fight for space and recognition. Within the hardship of struggle, the passion of the fans and players has kept the game alive. Believing in the right to play has pushed women's football forward over the last few decades. Who has the right to play?

2. VALUES

Useful links:

<https://www.givemesport.com/1708257-pride-month-how-womens-football-is-leading-the-way-for-lgbtq-visibility>

<https://www.womenshealthmag.com/uk/fitness/a37384998/female-football-fans-interview/>

- **BELONGING**

Some marginalised communities (in particular some people from LGBTQIA+ communities) have found belonging as fans, and a home in the stands for the women's game. The women's game prides itself on offering an open welcome to all fans, including those who have traditionally felt excluded men's games. What does it mean to belong in the crowd?

- **PRIDE**

In order for women's football to grow and thrive, the audience and profile of the game has to be developed. There is much to be proud of in the women's game. What is there to shout about? What do we love about the game? What is the atmosphere in the stadium at a game?

- **SUCCESS**

Women's football is full of top class athletes, who are dedicated to working hard, winning and achieving. What gives an individual or team the drive to succeed? What is needed to reach the very highest goals?

3. VISION:

Useful links:

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/blog/2019/jul/09/womens-world-cup-football-eni-aluko>

<https://www.uefa.com/insideuefa/football-development/news/0260-103fcbf9c9df-72ac48d24199-1000--women-s-football-strategy-review/>

- **GRASS ROOTS AND UP**

Encouraging girls to play football at school is key element in the future development of the game. How can we foster the dreams and aspirations of young girls? How can every girl feel empowered to play?

- **FOOTBALL ACROSS THE GLOBE**

Football is a sport with a truly global span. An aspiration for the women's game is for international women's teams across the world to have equality with their counterparts in the men's game. Why is football important to people all across the world? How does it bring us together?

- **BROAD APPEAL**

Women's football has attracted large crowds, but it is still seen as a niche interest - and does not yet attract the large-scale support that the men's game receives. How can we encourage fans to get behind women's football? Why do we love the game?

WRITING LYRICS WITH A GROUP

GOLDEN RULES

- **THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A BAD IDEA!**

All ideas are welcome. Be brave with putting ideas forward - even if it turns out not to be the right idea for the piece you're making, it's always good to put all ideas into the mix.

- **STICK WITH IT!**

Writing together is really hard work. There will definitely be a moment when you think that you want to give up. That's usually when the best ideas start to come and you make something brilliant. Keep going!

- **THIS SONG BELONGS TO EVERYONE!**

This is a song that can only be written with the exact mixture of people who are in the room. You wouldn't make this song without the group, and the group wouldn't make it without you.

DO:

- **AGREE ON POINT OF VIEW**

Once you have settled on your theme, agree on the point of view. Who is singing this song? Is this a song sung by a character in a story, or a song describing something from a distance?

For example: You are writing about the atmosphere in the ground on match day. Is the song looking from above describing what you see (3rd person, they/them/it) or is it from the point of view of the crowd (1st person, me/we/us)? This seems very basic, but if the group can agree on this from the beginning it's a really concrete starting point for writing.

- **EXPLORE MOOD AND IMPACT**

At the very beginning of the writing process, ask the question "How do we want the audience to feel when they hear this song?" When the group can answer that question (for example: excited, inspired, reflective, angry) then we can ask how that will affect our language. Are we using long poetic sentences, or short punchy single words?

- **USE YOUR TASTE AND JUDGEMENT**

All ideas are welcome, and of course it's important to encourage everyone to contribute, but the first idea is not always the best. Your job is to have an overview of the lyrics as a whole, and to make sure they don't get derailed. Encourage the group to keep digging, and to think further if you feel that the lyrics are not quite right. Be open about the fact that the line/verse/section you're working on is tricky and needs some more work. Bring the group into that element of the creative process. Celebrate the idea that solves the problem!

- **KEEP IT BRIEF**

Keep your word count low. When you look at song lyrics written out, they are often very short! The lyrics for a 5-minute song shouldn't exceed a side of A4; sentences don't need to be formed in the same way as prose. For example: you might want to express "The team won the game 3-0 at home", and the lyric might become "3 goals to 1! We Won! At Home! Winners!" You can be brief and snappy to make an impression.

- **THINK IN IMAGES**

Encourage the group to think in similes and metaphor.

For example: if the group is stuck trying to describe how they might feel as fans at a game, ask what the crowd might be compared to as a simile. You can then use this to form a line, such as "We are a dragon! Roaring!"

DON'T:

- **GET TRAPPED BY RHYME**

Rhyming can be really fun - but it also feels a bit oppressive at times. You can find some great punchy rhymes in some sections, but veer away from it in others.

- **GET STUCK IN VERSE/CHORUS/VERSE STRUCTURE**

This is a great traditional structure - but it can mean that it's hard to change direction in your song. Think rather about the journey you want to go on and create different sections. Maybe you start with a slow, reflective section, and move onto an exciting uplifting section.