

# Timeline Project 4

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TOPIC: Verse-chorus form

Make an annotated timeline diagram for a 3-5 minute song in verse-chorus form (you choose the song) using the Audio Timeliner software available at <http://tinyurl.com/audiotimeliner>

Instructions:

- A. Acquire an mp3 file of the song
- B. Create the timeline
  1. Open the Audio Timeliner software and choose “Create a New Timeline.” Then locate the mp3 file on your computer—you should get one big blue bubble.
  2. Create bubbles for all of the sections of the song (don’t worry about the phrase level). You can create bubbles by pressing the “Add” button as you listen or by pressing the Enter/Return key on your keyboard. You can adjust your bubble boundaries by dragging the timepoints.
  3. Add labels to each of the bubbles (intro, verse, chorus, etc.) by double-clicking on the bubble and entering its label in the Label field.
  4. (optional) Add the lyrics to each bubble as annotations:
  5. (optional) Add markers to the timeline to mark important events by clicking on the “Mark” button as you listen.
  6. Now spruce up your timeline with color—select a bubble or bubbles and click on the “Color...” button, choosing colors that convey the contrasts you hear in the music
  7. You can experiment with other visual features using the “Edit Properties” window, such as “square bubbles,” “black and white,” background colors, or alternate color schemes.
  8. Don’t forget to save, please.

Once your timeline is completed, save it and email the finished timeline file (the .tim file) to me as an attachment. If the song is obscure / hard to find, you can also send me the mp3 (for research purposes).

## *Characteristics of the sections in verse-chorus form*

### Intro (optional):

- Create a groove / set the mood / establish the key for the singer
- Can be vocal or instrumental only
- Could use music from verse or chorus or be independent from them

### Verse:

- Repeating music / changing lyrics
- Usually precedes the chorus
- Appears multiple times in alternation with the chorus
- Tells the story / the events, images, and emotions that the singer wants to convey
- AABB or ABAB rhyme scheme
- Pretty much always in the home key (tonic)

### Pre-chorus (optional):

- Also referred to as a “build” or a “channel”
- Connects the verse to the chorus
- Often uses subdominant or transitional harmonies
- Useful for variety when the verse and chorus use the same harmonic structure

### Chorus:

- Repeating music / same lyrics
- Appears multiple times in alternation with the verse
- Sometimes called a refrain
- Contains the hook / usually has the title of the song in it somewhere
- Greater musical and emotional intensity than the verse
- Thicker texture (additional instruments or backing vocals)
- Prolongs tonic harmony, usually

### Bridge:

- Connects the verse to the chorus
- Used to break up the verse-chorus pattern for variety
- Different melodic and harmonic patterns than other sections
- Generally only happens once, often right before the final chorus

### Outro (optional):

- Sometimes called a coda or a tag
- Signals to the listener that the end is near / helps dancers to stop less awkwardly
- Usually based on a riff / melody from earlier in the song – no introduction of new material
- Could end with a fade-out or a slow-down
- Could end with an instrumental vamp or a solo (in the fade-out)

### Solo:

- Basically a chorus (harmonically and structurally), but instrumental
- Used to showcase an instrumentalist
- Might be based on the melody from the chorus or “improvised” material