

EIGHT STEPS TO CHARACTER CREATION

Fill out the following worksheet to jumpstart character creation for roleplaying games or fiction.

1. Jot down some words, feelings, or lyrics that capture the character's identity & vibe. (character concept)

2. What are they good at? What do they struggle with? (starting points to pick skills, talents, etc.)

3. How'd they get good at that? Why do they struggle with that? (starting points to form a backstory)

4. Circle some words your character knows a lot about, or add your own. (spheres of knowledge)

agriculture, animals, anthropology, architecture, armor, art, astronomy, biology, chemistry, ciphers, electronics, engineering, finance, folklore, forensics, government, heraldry, history, languages, magic, mathematics, mechanics, medicine, mining, monsters, music, navigation, occultism, physics, plants, politics, psychology, religion, science, society, spycraft, textiles, vehicles, warfare, weapons

5. Circle some words that drive your character, or add your own. (character motives & values)

anger, beauty, charity, community, competition, control, courage, cowardice, creativity, debt, discovery, duty, escape, faith, fame, family, fear, freedom, friends, growth, guilt, health, home, ideals, identity, justice, knowledge, legacy, leisure, love, loyalty, novelty, patriotism, perfection, power, pride, rebellion, regret, reputation, revenge, security, stability, status, strength, survival, truth, wealth

6. What does your character want? (create specific goals that follow from their motives & values)

Short-term:

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Medium-term:

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Long-term:

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6. Who might help them? Who might hinder them? (you can ask your GM for a list of factions/NPCs)

Trusted NPCs/Factions

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It Depends

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Enemy NPCs/Factions

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8. What are they afraid of? What could go wrong? (stakes and levers for the GM)