



MASTER THE REWRITE
WORKSHEET: CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT
by Script Society



STEP 1: APPEARANCE

Fill in the blanks below in as much detail as you can. Once complete, go over the list and choose a maximum of 5 elements that are the most unique about your characters. These are the key words you will use to describe your character in their bio and in the screenplay.

Type: _____

Height: _____

Weight: _____

Personal Style: _____

Favourite Colour: _____

Hygiene: _____

Sexuality: _____

Hair: _____

Flaws: _____

Piercings/Tattoos?: _____

Other: _____

Note: Unless it is important to the story, I wouldn't mention things like race in your character description as it's unlikely you will have any control over who is cast in your film.



STEP 2: PERSONALITY & BACKSTORY

Give your character a key attribute (generous, funny, crazy, noble...etc.) and write it in the slot below. Then, expand on it by answering the questions below. Once you've done that, fill out their backstory. Again, go into as much detail as possible!

Personality

KEY ATTRIBUTE: _____

Why is your character like that?

What matters most to your character?

Give your character a positive trait.

Where does that stem from?

Describe the perfect day for your character.

What is the education level of your character? How do they feel about that?

What makes your character mad?

What makes them happy?

What is your character scared of? Why?

What are your character's dreams?

Early bird or Night Owl?

Does your character prefer a life of routine or spontaneity?



How would your character describe themselves?

How could others describe them?

What would your character do with a million dollars?

Is family important to your character?

Where does your character fall on a moral scale?

What is your character's attitude to life?

Give your character a weakness and strength.

Backstory

To determine your characters backstory we are going to figure out a few keys events that occurred to them in their life *before* the events of your screenplay. These should be things that helped shape them into who they are (ex: a parent's divorce, moving to a new city, the death of a loved one...etc.).

Childhood:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Teen Years:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Adulthood:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



STEP 3: VOICE

Fill in the form below in detail to determine your characters individual voice. Be as creative as you can.

Native Language: _____

Accent: _____

Education Level: _____

Slang: _____

Humor: _____

Imperfections: _____

Volume: _____

Frequency: _____

Test out your characters voice by filling our out “Character Interview” worksheet.

STEP 4: INTERNAL CONFLICT

Draw from your characters backstory to determine what their fears are. What struggles will they have to overcome over the course of your screenplay? Try to come up with 3 – 6 conflicts, most small and 1 or 2 big ones (hint: those are the ones they will overcome!). Be sure to include *where* this conflict originates.

CONFLICT #1: _____

CONFLICT #2: _____

CONFLICT #3: _____

CONFLICT #4: _____

CONFLICT #5: _____

CONFLICT #6: _____



STEP 5: MOTIVES & STAKES

By now you should have a pretty good idea of who this character is. It's time to determine their motives and stakes. What do they want and what do they stand to lose if they fail? Fill out the chart below with motives and their corresponding stakes.

MOTIVE	STAKES

STEP 6: THE JOURNEY

The last step of this worksheet is determining your character's journey. How will they have changed by the end of your screenplay? The easiest way to determine this is to choose an internal conflict for them to overcome. Then, using the space below, describe how your character changes from the beginning of the script to the end: