

Screenwriting: Long Form
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Assignment: Character Biographies
Due Tuesday, February 6th

CHARACTER BIOS

For this assignment, you will create and develop the key characters for your screenplay, based on your selected premise. You have an idea of your story, now who are the characters that will make it happen?

For each main character of your movie (protagonist and villain), write a one-page biography that describes, in rich detail, who this person is and their role in this story. (If you have a large ensemble cast, you may limit the biographies to 1-2 paragraphs each.) Your goal here is to figure out exactly what makes these characters tick, and how they relate to one another.

Some ideas for what to include in your bios:

Gender/age/ethnicity/cultural background
Socio-economic status
Profession
Appearance
Values
Attitude(s)
Educational background
Social position
Marital/family status
History (where did this person grow up? What was their childhood like? Etc.)

Your bios should be sure to address:

Character's goal—what do they want?
Relationship to other characters—where are they in conflict? In harmony?
What's at stake—what does this character stand to lose?
How will the character change over the course of the story—what does the character arc look like?

This assignment need not be formal in presentation, but should be typed and understandable to someone not familiar with your story. Lists, partial sentences, and some stream of consciousness writing are acceptable. This assignment is largely to encourage brainstorming and the early development of what will become complex and multi-dimensional characters.