

# STUDENT MAJOR-RELATED ORAL PRESENTATION SAMPLE 2

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- *ABC 83<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference  
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- *My Favorite Assignment*
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# HOW TO DEVELOP A CHARACTER IN A SHORT STORY

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THOROUGHLY PRODUCING A CHARACTER



# WHAT WILL BE COVERED

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- What is character development
- The effect of character development
- How to gauge your character
- Technique for a better character
- The outcome

# WHAT IS CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT?

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**Character development** - showing a multitude of behaviors and traits that give the literary character the complexity of a human being. The amount of a character's development affects the quality of the story.



# THE EFFECT OF CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

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A lack of complexity:

- **Flat character** – This literary personality is notable for only having one kind of personality trait or characteristic.



Adequate complexity:

- **Round character** - has multiple traits--bad and good--shown throughout the story. We should feel that we know the character so well that they become a real individual.



# THE EFFECT OF CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

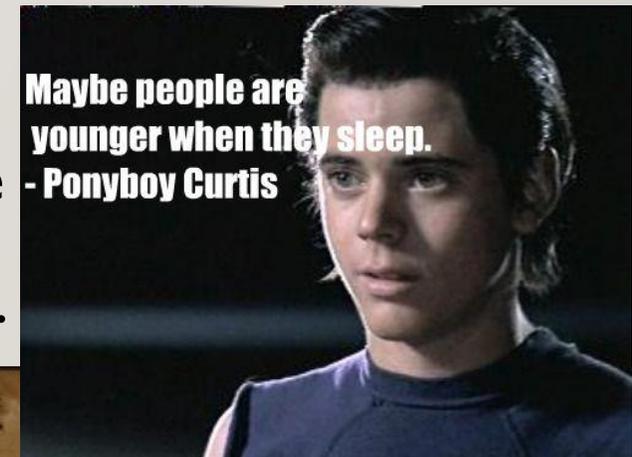
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Lack of development:

- **Static** character - one who **does not** experience a basic change in the course of the story.

Adequate development:

- **Dynamic** character - one who undergoes a basic change through the events of the story. This change is internal and may be sudden, but the events of the plot should make it seem inevitable.



# HOW TO GAUGE YOUR CHARACTER

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**Character development** is a continuum with flat characters at one end and round ones at the other. Every character lies somewhere on this continuum. The amount of change in a character throughout the story affects its quality.

Flat character



Round character

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# TECHNIQUE FOR A BETTER CHARACTER

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To push past writer's block within the scope of developing your character a list of questions should be answered.



# QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER ANSWERING

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- How does the character feel about their parents?
- Does the character have any siblings?
- How does the character feel about their siblings?
- Does the character appear confident?
- How does the character feel about their job?
- Does the character have good posture?
- Does the character make direct eye contact?
- Has the character ever broken any laws?

# QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER ANSWERING

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- Does the character have any nervous tics?
- Does the character have a significant other?
- What sort of person is the character attracted to?
- Is the character physically healthy?
- Does the character have any medical conditions?
- Has the character suffered any trauma in their past?

# THE OUTCOME

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- If you're able to answer all of these questions about the character, you'll have a great deal of material. You may find that you can use a lot of it, which is great. Still, not everything you decide about a character will go into your story.

# THE OUTCOME

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- Simply understanding the information will make the character more developed in the story because you, the creator, know the character so well.
- In other words, you don't have to include every single detail about your character's history in the story. The best stories often allude to the past without being explicit about past events.

**HAPPY WRITING!**

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