

Appendix IV.1.8.
Character Biography Assignment

Character Biography (Due Wednesday, September 24th)

The **character biography** is basically a fictional biography of the character/s that are in your play. If you have more than one character in your play, complete a character biography for the protagonist and antagonist only. Write this biography as if this person really did exist. Make them exist. Give them life through your profiles. When creating your character/s, don't be afraid to base the character on a person/s from real life. Maybe the character is you. Maybe it's someone you hardly know. Choose the character's birthday, birthplace, and where the character grew up. Choose the character's family, social and economic background. Next describe a few key events in that character's life – deaths, winning the lottery, childhood scars. Be creative, but realistic. These biographies should answer the following questions:

- What does this character look like?
- What is this character's background?
- What psychological issues does this character have?
- What are the wants, needs, desires of this character? (*Concrete*, not abstract)
- What are the fears, phobias, addictions of this character?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of this character?
- How smart is she/he (smarter is better)? How shrewd? How clever? How devious? How charming? How funny? How ethical? How practical? How malleable? How pathetic?
- How willing is she/he to negotiate? *This one is important.* What will one character do or say to get something from another character?
- What *motivations* make her/him stir?
- How does this character feel about other characters?
- How does she/he fit into the society at the time?
- What is her/his favorite food
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Make sure that your character has strong enough goals, difficult enough obstacles, and talents and opportunity!

Now look at your biography. Is it interesting enough? Could the events and actions you've imagined be altered to create a more interesting person? Revise the biography. Play with different possibilities, different actions and events. Has your biography brought your character to a point in his/her life where a potential high-pressure crisis is suggested? The kind of crisis that could start a play?

Resume & Cover Letter: Write a resume for your character, and write a cover letter from this character, imagining that s/he is applying for his/her dream job. What would this job be?