Eli's Top Tips for Writing Original Characters

Do you want to write a new character but don't know where to start? This blog post is for you! Here are my five top tips for writing original characters!

As someone who has written original characters for over seven years, I'm always learning new and different ways to make a character stand out from the rest. These tips I want to share with others so that they can make their characters the best they can be.

1 | Profiles

When it comes to making a character, I like to use templates that have been used by other people, especially ones made by my friends. It's a good way to separate the characteristics into specific sections and you can tick them off as you're filling the sections out.
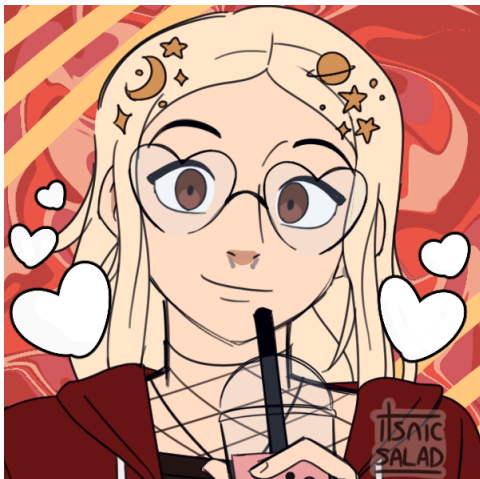
For example, this is a template that I use that breaks things down into four categories or fewer. The first box is the basics. You have the character's full name, nicknames they go by, their age and their occupation. The next is

General Information

Name: Ella Baker	Species: Witch
Nickname(s): El, Elle	Gender: Female
Age: 35	Height: 5'6 (167.64cm)
Occupation: Teacher at Emberlight Academy	Weight: 129lbs

their species, height, weight and gender. This is from a template that was created by one of my online friends.

Each category is broken down to make it seem simpler and easier to make a character even though the template itself makes the character a lot more detailed.

2 | Visuals

The next tip that I want to share with you all is creating a visual of your original character. Making a character with detailed traits is all well and good but you should also know what

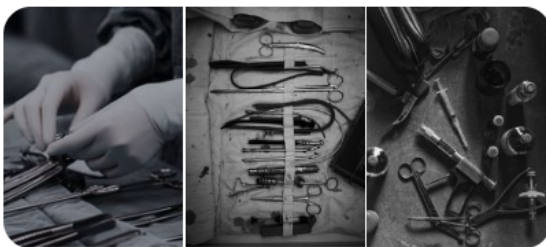your character looks like. There are a few ways you can do this.

The first way is my personal favourite. Character creators. The main character creator I use is the website Piccrew. There are a lot of creators on that website that suit everyone's style. This is good because you can use them to make visuals of how your character looks in the exact way you want them

to look. This is a character I quickly made earlier with [this](#) Piccrew character creator!

The next way is using Pinterest. I have a board dedicated to face claims for my original characters if I don't want to use Piccrew or want a 'real life' face claim. A 'real life' face claim for your original character may be seen as controversial but that should not matter to you if you are doing what you like to do.

3 | Aesthetics

If you don't want to find a face claim for your character, you can always find the aesthetic that they fit. I talk a lot about Pinterest, but that is because it is such an amazing website.

Lucien Williams
29 Pins

Especially when it comes to creating original characters.

On Pinterest, I have a board for my main original characters that I use in multiple pieces of writing. This board is for the aesthetics of my original character who is a mad scientist. I have used this board for so long and it helped me to shape who my original character actually was as a person.

4 | Relations

The penultimate tip is to come up with some relations of your original character. That may be family members, best friends, enemies or even just people they have met once. Each relation that a character has will shape them to be the person that you want them to be.
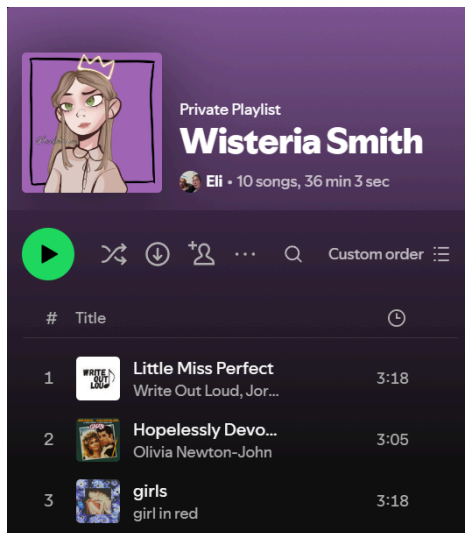
This tip ties into the first one of making a character profile. This screenshot is from a template that I use a lot when it comes to creating my characters. I like to use relations as a form of character development and you can too! It's simple! Just state what relation the person has to your character. Do they have a good relationship with them or a bad one? Do a short description of how these two people know each other.

Name - Relation - Positive/Negative

Relation Description Nullam libero urna, faucibus et est ac, tincidunt tincidunt felis. Aliquam auctor tempus lectus. Vivamus vel mi vel est facilisis consequat.

5 | Inspiration

The final tip that I have for character creation is taking inspiration from other forms of content. Obviously don't take everything from one character and just change the name. That is not what I mean.
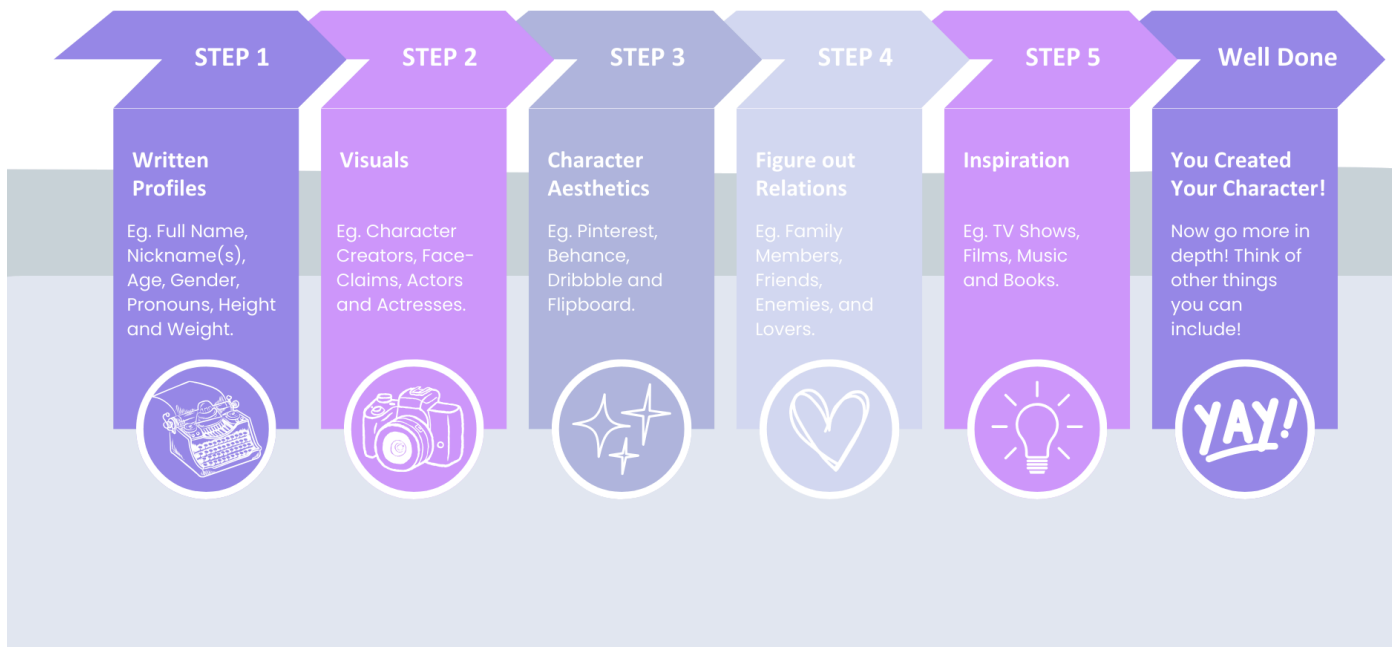
My favourite place to get inspiration is actually from music. Listening to music is an amazing way to get ideas for characters. I make playlists based around what I want my characters to act like.

As shown in the picture, I have an original character called Wisteria Smith and I have made a playlist for her. It doesn't have to be super long or anything. Even just a couple of songs to get you started is more than okay! You can always add more later.

It helps if you put a photo of your original character as the picture for the playlist. I find that this helps a lot more to decide what sort of songs I want to add to the original character playlist.#

Creation Walkthrough

STEP 1

Written Profiles

Eg. Full Name, Nickname(s), Age, Gender, Pronouns, Height and Weight.

STEP 2

Visuals

Eg. Character Creators, Face-Claims, Actors and Actresses.

STEP 3

Character Aesthetics

Eg. Pinterest, Behance, Dribbble and Flipboard.

STEP 4

Figure out Relations

Eg. Family Members, Friends, Enemies, and Lovers.

STEP 5

Inspiration

Eg. TV Shows, Films, Music and Books.

Well Done

You Created Your Character!

Now go more in depth! Think of other things you can include!

<u>Final Words</u>

At the end of the day, making an original character should not be a stress. It should be fun! These tips that I have shared with you are ones that made it easier to separate information and to get inspiration. I wanted to share these tips with you all so you know that you're not alone when struggling with creating your original characters. I hope that these tips can help you create your characters and that you can share them with others to help them too.