

“Novice Guide: Engaging NPCs”

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Origins Seminar

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Creating Engaging NPCs

- Overview & Definitions
- V.A.M.P.I.R.E.
- Questions / Answers
- Frenzied Applause!

Creating Engaging NPCs

What we're trying to accomplish

The seminar explores how to create new and interesting NPCs that will further your plots while being fun for the PCs to interact with.

The name of the game in Role-Playing for the referee is creating a world where the players can *suspend disbelief*. The techniques described in this document will aid you in achieving this objective.

The Single Page Method Description

- V aried
- A ffect
- M ultifaceted
- P oint out
- I ntersect
- R easonable
- E xist

Varied

- Each NPC should be unique and easily identifiable
 - Physical characteristics and appearance
 - Mannerisms
 - Personalities
 - Beliefs
- Caution: *Over differentiation*

Affect

- The party must *feel* that the NPC has some bearing on its goals.
- The ability to affect can be subtle:
 - Important information
 - Useful item
 - Authorities over area of interest

Multi-faceted

- Goals
- Strengths
- Weaknesses
- Hobbies
- Caution: *Pick things you are comfortable with*

Point Out

- What makes your world or GMing style unique?
- How could this affect the current adventure and further the plot?
- What is something that you are really proud of?

Intersect

- Make it “personal.”
- Intersect on a variety of planes
 - Introduce the NPC early in one context and bring them back in another
 - Cooperative
 - Competitive
 - Changes over time
- Caution: *Avoid “Mr. Omniflex”*

Reasonable

- Actions and motivations should make sense in the context of the world
- Cause - effect
- Make it *obvious* to the players -- at least after the fact

Exist

- Lives outside of sessions
- Has goals that don't center on the party
- NPCs will take actions whether the party does or not
- The world is *dynamic!*
- Caution: *the party must still feel special.*

Synergy in VAMPIRE

- NPCs come in two varieties
 - Incidental
 - Deliberate
- Illustrations
 - Imal
 - Halwulf
 - Baron Stewart
 - Linta