

## & PROJECT

# Once Upon a Time in a City Called...

Session 3 of 5

## BUILDING CHARACTER

Characters are at the heart of our stories. What characters will you create for this new world?

### YOU WILL NEED

- Multiple copies per student of [Building Character Graphic Organizer](#) (one per important character)

### HOW TO BEGIN (5 MINUTES)

Remind students they are writing a dystopian flash fiction set in their city. Have a few students share about the new world they created the day before.

### STEP 1 (10 MINUTES)

#### Understanding Character

*Explain to students the importance of characters:*

- The characters are the individuals that the story is about. It's your job as writers to create characters in the story with enough information that the reader can visualize each person. This is achieved by providing detailed descriptions

of a character's physical attributes and personality traits.

- Every story should have a main character. The main character determines the way the plot will develop. However, the other characters are also very important because they supply additional details, explanations, or actions. All characters should stay true to the author's descriptions throughout the story so that the reader can understand and believe the action that is taking place.

Have students share out a few of their favorite characters from books, television shows, movies, video games, etc.

- What are those characters' physical attributes and personality traits?
- Why are they compelling characters?

## **STEP 2 (20 MINUTES)**

### **Creating Character**

Distribute at least one [character building graphic organizer](#) to each student for students to complete. Have students take more if they need to create multiple important characters in their story.

## **STEP 3 (10 MINUTES)**

### **Sharing**

Young writers share their ideas in small groups or with the whole class.