

Term Definitions

Below is a list of terms relevant to TV and media. Answer the questions about your favorite TV show.

What is your favorite TV show?:

Protagonist: the main character of the story.

- Who is the protagonist in your favorite TV show? What are 3 words you'd use to describe them, and why do you think they're a strong protagonist?

Antagonist: the character who tries to stop the protagonist from achieving their goals.

- Who is the antagonist in your favorite TV show? What are 3 words you'd use to describe them?

Goals: things your protagonist wants to achieve. Often, your protagonists' goals are a hallmark of the genre. (For example: In mysteries, the protagonist's goal is to solve the puzzle. In science fiction stories, the protagonist often wants to use their advanced technology to help the greater good.)

- In your favorite TV show, what is the biggest goal the protagonist wants to achieve? What motivates them to pursue that goal?

Obstacles: Something that gets in your protagonist's way, while they're trying to achieve their goals. Obstacles are often set in motion by the antagonist.

- In your favorite TV show, what is at least one challenge your protagonist faces while working towards achieving their goals?

Your Show Elements: Example

Answer the prompts below to brainstorm ideas for your own TV show. Don't worry about creating complex characters and situations—basic ideas are perfect for this activity! List 1-3 ideas in the Protagonist box and circle your favorite idea. In the remaining boxes, answer the prompts about the idea you circled.

Protagonist: List 1-3 ideas you have for characters who could be the star of your show. Circle your favorite idea.

1. *A quiet teenager who loves video games*
2. *A vampire that doesn't like being a vampire*
3. *A group of friends who have a secret only they know*

Antagonist: Who/what will be your protagonist's main rival or opponent?

An unknown entity that threatens to share the group's secret.

Goals: List at least 3 goals your protagonist wants to achieve.

1. *Discover who/what the antagonist is*
2. *Keep their secret to themselves*
3. *Maintain their friendship while trying to keep their secret*

Obstacles: List at least 3 obstacles your protagonist will have to navigate

1. *One of the friends starts to feel guilty about their secret*
2. *One of the friend's parents overhears part of a conversation*
3. *They learn a clue about who the antagonist is, but the clue is hard to decipher*

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Protagonist: List 1-3 ideas you have for characters who could be the star of your show. Circle your favorite idea.

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Goals: List at least 3 goals your protagonist wants to achieve.

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Premise Example

Below is an example of how to write a premise using the information found on page 3. Your premise should introduce the reader to your characters, the main problem, the obstacles, and the goals that are found in your original TV show idea.

Zariah, Fern, and CJ have been friends since the moment they stepped into Ms. Jamison's seventh-grade class at Erwin Middle School. Now that they're in 11th grade, they find themselves overwhelmed by the choices they need to make about their lives after high school.

Little do they know that a secret they've been guarding for their entire friendship will resurface, right before the end of the school year. They don't know who's responsible for bringing this secret out into the light, but they need to find out.