

Character Sketch 2 – From Observation or Imagination

For this creative exercise, you *may* still use what you know. However, I am also going to ask you to go beyond your own point of view and imagine another person's life. The human capacity for **empathy** can give us marvelous gifts, including the gift of creativity. Please engage your capacity for empathy and give one of the two options below a try.

Option 1 – Observe and Create

Go to a public place that is not Carmel High School (such as a coffee shop, a park, the mall, the gym, etc.) and observe one person in the vicinity. (NOTE: Please do not observe and write about a fellow member of the CHS community, such as a student or teacher. I'll explain why later.) Then take notes as follows:

- What kind of person is he or she? Watch the person, listen to his or her conversations, and take notes on whatever details about the person seems interesting, including physical appearance, way of dressing, possessions or material objects, voice, gestures, etc.
- Moreover, from your observations, make some imaginative inferences about what this person's life might be like—both their “outer” life and their “inner” life. What do you think this person will do today other than the mundane activities (eating meals, et cetera)? What will the person think about? What relationships does the person have with others? Strengths? Problems? Skills? Weaknesses? Obsessions? Questions?
- Turn this person into a character for a story, and write a list of at least ten important facts or things that you know about this person. Follow the instructions below.

Option 2 – Imagine and Create

Instead of people-watching, use your imagination (and your memory, if it helps) to create a character who is significantly different from you—not necessarily a “polar opposite” of you, but someone who lives a significantly different life from yours in important ways. (Differences could range from personality traits or life experiences to age or gender and everything in between.) Nevertheless, despite the significant differences between you and this character, use your capacity for empathy to imagine what it must be like to be this person and experience the world from this person's perspective. What kind of person is he or she, and what is this person's life like—both their “outer” life and their “inner” life?

- Turn this person into a character for a story, and write a list of at least ten important facts or things that you know about this person. Follow the instructions below.

Instructions for both options:

Create a new Google Doc entitled “Character Sketch 2,” and in this document, describe your character in detail, as follows:

Besides giving the character a name, make a detailed list of at least ten things that you know about this character (and, if appropriate, about the character's world).