

**Bring your characters to life using these techniques. Don't shove all of these things into one paragraph or even into one chapter. Use it as filler in between action scenes unless it is part of the action. Let it blend in seamlessly throughout your work. In brief, if you "sum up" somebody what would that description look like? Consider the following:**

**DIMENSION ONE      PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:**

Body Type- build, physical features, height and weight.

Health- major or minor problems does your character have, how does your character feel about them and live with them.

Clothing- includes style with accessories, sporty, business, casual, what does your character feel most comfortable wearing.

**DIMENSION TWO      SOCIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS:**

Name- nickname, what does her birth name say about her

Mini Bio- includes birth information, childhood memories and experiences

Social Status- consider your characters cultural and ethnic background, introvert or extravert

Relationships- with everybody important to your story

Residence- neighborhood, type of house, vibe of the neighborhood

Education- college or technical studies

Work- where and how often do they work

Religion- life application or indifference to

**DIMENSION THREE      PSYCHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS:**

Personality- polite or snappy, trusting or suspicious, happy or dull and sad

Speech- patterns, strong vocabulary, well spoken, accent

Attitude- towards self and others, authority, opposite sex

Skills / Interests / Habits- what does your character like to do or good at, bad at, would like to improve

Response to Stress- strong or falls apart

Adapted from Schaum's Quick Guide to Writing Great Short Stories; 1999; pg 39

**You also want to demonstrate your character using the five (5) senses:**

**Eyes-** describe what your character sees.

**Ears-** describe what your character is hearing.

**Smell-** if your character is in a restaurant, you will want her to comment on how good it smells; or how awful.

**Taste-** is your character tasting her best friends new recipe, then show her commenting on it.

**Feel-** your character is trying on a new fur coat, have her talk about how it feels, discuss her experience if necessary.