

# Character Interviews on NaNo-TV

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## ***Your Characters' Closets (10 minutes)***

Make a list of clothes and accessories that are in the closets of your protagonist, your antagonist, and at least one supporting character. Include at least five items per character

### ***Protagonist***

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

### ***Antagonist***

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

### ***Supporting Character***

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

## ***Your characters have been invited to be interviewed on NaNo-TV!***

One of the best ways to really get to know your characters is to step inside their shoes for a little while, that is, to pretend that you are your characters! And guess what? You've been given you the perfect opportunity to do just that, because your characters have been invited to be interviewed on the local NaNo-TV station.

Unfortunately, your characters can't make it because they are so busy being in your novel. That means that you will have to step into your characters' shoes and pretend to be them while they are on TV. Your character will be asked questions during the television interview, and you will have to answer in the voice of your character.



## ***Interviews (50 minutes)***

- One person will play the part of host while another will play the part of one of his or her characters. (The supporting character and the antagonist scripts require the help of a third person playing the roll of the caller.)
- The host will interview the character for a **5-minute** segment on NaNo-TV.
- Use your lists of items in your characters' closets, plus any prop items that you brought along today or any imaginary props you can describe to the group.
- Interviewees are encouraged to include as much detailed language as possible to give NaNo-TV viewers a solid idea of who their characters are.
- Those playing host should use the provided script, but they can enhance it with their own questions.
- Those playing characters should answer the interview questions as their characters would answer them. If it helps you to get into the roles before you start, try closing your eyes and imagining how your characters speak and move, or maybe slink around the room like your protagonist would, or talk in a French accent if your supporting character is French.

# Lists, Lists, and Lists of Lists

During the month of November, Abigail was busy with all kinds of activities. Not only was she writing a novel in a month (no easy feat!), but she was also training for a marathon, planning a cook-out for her boyfriend Boris, learning to knit, and opening her very own yoga studio. Plus, she was really busy with all kinds of world-changing activities, like writing daily postcards to the White House calling for more fuel-efficient energy and better recycling programs.

Oh hey, we were just doing one of our favorite noveling activities—taking the items from a list we made called "All the important things Abigail does in November."

Lists are great because they do a lot of things at once:

- They help you discover new things about your characters.
- They reveal plot twists.
- They help boost word counts (always a plus!).

You can use the suggested list topics below in many different ways. Here are a some ideas:

- You can fill out the lists to see if you discover anything new about your characters or plot that will take your novel in a new direction.
- You can take the items from your lists and write them into your novel as full sentences (just like we've done in the example above).
- You can just read the list of suggested lists and see if any of them spur new ideas and write from there.

Whichever way you choose to do it, make sure to let your brain loose and just write. If you run out of room, just take out a separate sheet of paper and keep writing!

1. Character's name:
2. Hidden things in your character's room:
3. Things in your character's refrigerator and freezer:
4. Your character's bad habits:
5. What your character daydreams about:
6. Things in your character's closet:
7. Things your character collects:
8. Things your character carries in his/her pockets or bag:
9. Jobs your character had before ending up in your novel:

If you like lists and you finish with these, come up with your own list of lists. Anytime you get stuck during NaNoWriMo, take out your list of lists and get writing. A list prompt like "Things my character wants to eat this very moment" may help you get out of a rut and get your story moving again. . . to the taco truck!

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## ***Protagonist Interview (2 actors: Host, Protagonist)***

**Protagonist's name:**

**Author's name:**

**Antagonist's name:**

1. Hello, **[protagonist's name]**, and welcome to NaNo-TV, the best TV-show ever. We're really excited about **[author's name]**'s novel, and are honored to have you on the show. Why don't you tell us a little about your journey so far? What exactly are you setting out to achieve?
2. Wow! Sounds like quite a goal. Rumor has it, though, that someone is out to get you. We've heard you've been having some trouble with a particular antagonist. Can you tell us a little about what this person has been up to lately?
3. Man, sounds pretty wild! Now, we all know that you are a fictional character, but we've heard that you have quite a mind of your own. Have you done anything unexpected this November to surprise the person writing about you?
4. Real quick, a question that's been weighing on everyone's minds—What would you rather do: live without music or live without TV? Why?
5. How do you feel now about the rest of your adventure? Is there anything you're anxious about?
6. Well, we wish you the best of luck! We're confident you will succeed! Do you have any secret plans for defeating **[antagonist's name]**?

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## *Supporting Character Interview (3 actors: Host, Supporting Character, Caller)*

**Supporting character's name:**

**Protagonist's name:**

**Antagonist's name:**

1. Hello, **[supporting character's name]**, and welcome to the show! We just talked to **[protagonist's name]** and learned all about **[antagonist's name]**. We just heard about **[protagonist's name]**'s plans for defeating **[antagonist's name]**. Do you have any other tricks up your sleeve that we don't know about?
2. Wow, tricky indeed. What special challenges have you faced while helping **[protagonist's name]**?
3. We all know that you've been a big help to **[protagonist's name]**, but we're also wondering: Is there anything or anyone that's been a big help to you along the way?
4. Very interesting. Hey, it looks like we've got a call coming through. Hello, you're on NaNo-TV, the best TV show ever. What's your question?  
*Yes, hi. Wow, I've never called into a TV-show before! Hi Mom! Anyway, my question is: If you could only three foods for the rest of your life, what three foods would you choose?*
5. Good answer. Moving on, is there anything in particular that you're excited or nervous about for the upcoming adventures you face?
6. Well, we wish you all the best of luck in supporting **[protagonist's name]**, and we look forward to hearing how things pan out for you. One last thing, before you go: What do you plan on doing after this novel is over?

Wow! Wish I could join you! Thank you so much for your time. We hope you'll join us again soon. Up next, the character you've all been waiting for... the antagonist, **[antagonist's name]**, just after this commercial break!

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## *Antagonist Interview (3 actors: Host, Antagonist, Caller)*

**Antagonist's name:**

**Protagonist's name:**

**One supporting character's name:**

1. Hello, **[antagonist's name]**, and welcome to the show! Why don't you tell us a little about yourself? Like, what has made you so unpleasant?
  
2. I can see why your reputation precedes you. We've just spoken to **[protagonist's name]** and **[supporting character's name]** and they've told us a little about the conflict you all are having. Would you like to give your side of the story?
  
3. Fascinating. Is there a certain reason why you and **[protagonist's name]** are enemies? Were you ever friends?
  
4. Is there anything you plan to do in the novel that you haven't done so far? Any nasty tricks up your sleeve you'd like to tell us about?
  
5. That is messed up! You really are an antagonist, in every way. Oh, it looks like we've got another call coming through! Caller, welcome to the show. What's your question?

*Yes, hello. I'm a research scientist and I'm doing a study on antagonists. I was wondering if there are any ways in which things might be different if this was your novel, instead of **[protagonist's name]**?*

Fascinating. It looks like we're running out of time. Well, **[antagonist's name]**, we can't say we wish you luck, but we do look forward to hearing how things turn out. We hope you'll come back again and join us when November is over. And to all our viewers out there in TV land, be sure to join us tomorrow, when I'll be arm wrestling a ravenous koala bear, blind-folded. See you then!

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