**Developing Character: The Journal Sketch**

**PART ONE**

Write two elaborate character sketches. Answer all of the questions as well as any others you think of. Write the sketches out in complete sentences and paragraphs.

1. When and where was the character born? Why does the character have that name? What is the character’s background—economically, spiritually, educationally? Does the character have brothers and sisters? What are the family dynamics?

2. What does the character look like? How does the character speak? Move? Relate to others? What are the behavioral tics (like rubbing the side of his nose or hiccupping when nervous)?

3. What does the character do for a living? For fun? For a hobby? To kill time?

4. What is the character’s psychological makeup? What are the character’s memories—conscious and unconscious (as revealed in dreams and actions)? How self-aware is the character? Describe your character’s vices. A vice is an immoral behavior or a moral flaw or weakness (A vice for your character doesn't necessarily have to be drinking or swearing--perhaps your character is a compulsive spender. Maybe your character is a chocoholic who has just been diagnosed with diabetes. What is considered a vice will depend largely on your character's situation.)

5. What significant events shaped the character’s views and reactions?

6. What does the character want and why?

**PART TWO**

Complete THREE of the following activities for EACH character sketch.

1. Make a list of situations for the character. Consider the kind of problem or set of circumstances that will best reveal the character.
2. Imagine the character at ten years old. Take some additional notes on the character at that age.
3. Write about the character through the eyes of another.
4. Describe your character’s typical daily schedule.
5. Obtain a psychological profile test, such as an aptitude/interest test and fill it out as if you were the character.
6. Have the character complete a job application and write a cover letter for the job.