

Layered Characterization States

Initial Attitude			Growth			Realization		
Show	Push	Learn	Show	Push	Learn	Show	Push	Learn

-Each characterization layer will generate three Characterization States, each of which will have three “signpost” moments.

-The first Characterization State will be the initial attitude or position of the character. The second will show them either directly growing or learning that growth is possible. The third will culminate in the realization of all the character has learned and achieved throughout the story.

-Each Characterization State will consist of three “signpost” moments:

- A situation that shows the current position of the character using something the character has encountered before.
- The character encounters something that pushes the boundaries of their preconceived attitude.
- The character makes a decision or has a realization that they would not have made before the push, and considers the new outcome.

-Each signpost will be a snippet of in-universe prose that we’ll give to Claude to guide him.

-Multiple characterization layers can be applied to a character as needed. For example: a character might grow more confident as a person as the same time as their preconceived views of others change. This would be achieved with two discrete characterization layers.

-That being said, it’s certainly possible for a single signpost to satisfy multiple Characterization Layers!

-An example of Characterization states, using a character that might be found in a fantasy novel:

Initial Attitude: T’Sha doesn’t feel that she is qualified for her position as ambassador.

Show: She attends a meeting and is the youngest there.

Push: One of her elderly peers insults her judgement.

Learn: After the fact, T’Sha learns that she was right all along.

Growth: T’Sha is torn between what she thinks is right and her lack of confidence.

Show: She receives a message from home, which refocuses her mind.

Push: She is confronted by an unfamiliar and dangerous situation, and must improvise.

Learn: She is more skilled and powerful than she thought.

Realization: T’Sha is wise, powerful, and deserving.

Show: She meets her peers in the midst of a crisis.

Push: Instead of shying away, she takes control of the situation.

Learn: She emerges confident and respected.