

Mystery/Investigation Template

A handy, non-genre, non-system, non-judgemental worksheet.

- 1A.** A mystery is just a story told in reverse. The story should be simple: 1 killed 2 because x and y.
- 1B.** Write the main points of the story which culminates in your sentence in 1A.
- 2A.** The villain has Motive, Means, & Opportunity. The suspects should have just 1 or 2, but never all 3 of these.
- 2B.** The inciting incident - how the players found the body, etc.
- 2C.** The story from 1B in reverse. This is the order the players will experience it through their investigation.
- 3A.** The physical and verbal clues that will allow them to piece the story together. Be sure to include a few red herrings that point to some suspects from 2A.

Suspects - and why they couldn't have done it.

2A

Name

- Motive
- Means
- Opportunity

Name

- Motive
- Means
- Opportunity

Name

- Motive
- Means
- Opportunity

Name

- Motive
- Means
- Opportunity

1A

1 Sentence summary of the event being discovered.

2B

Inciting Incident. How the players get involved.

3A

The trail of hints and information that will lead the players to the next part of the story.

- Clue
- Description
- Location
- _____
- Clue
- Description
- Location
- _____
- Clue
- Description
- Location
- _____
- Clue
- Description
- Location
- _____
- Clue
- Description
- Location
- _____
- Clue
- Description
- Location
- _____
- Clue
- Description
- Location
- _____
- Clue
- Description
- Location
- _____
- Clue
- Description
- Location
- _____
- Clue
- Description
- Location
- _____

1B

Write the events of the back story that the players will discover. Just the main points, in order.

- >
- >
- >
- >
- >
- >
- >
- >
- >
- >
- >
- >
- >
- >
- >

2C

Now tell the story in reverse.

- >
- >
- >
- >
- >
- >
- >
- >
- >
- >
- >
- >
- >
- >
- >