

# Develop Your Story With These 18 Essential Questions

*This is an extra resource to go along with the original article:*

[Character-Driven Vs. Plot Driven: Which is Best](#)

---

*Here are a few questions to ask yourself while writing, and especially during the editing process, to create a more cohesive, rounded, and satisfying story for your readers.*

When Writing a **Plot Driven Story**, Answer These Questions About Each of Your Main Characters:

1. What is the character's back story?
2. What is the character's personality?
3. How was the character's personality shaped by his/ her back story?
4. How does each scene develop the character?
5. What is driving the character's reaction within the scene (based on his/ her back story)?
6. How does your character change within the course of the story?
7. What is the character's internal conflict?
8. What is the character most afraid of?
9. How would he / she define happiness?

When Writing a **Character Driven Story**, Answer These Questions About Your Plot:

1. What does your character want to happen in each scene?
2. Is there tension or conflict within each scene?
3. What action does the character take within each scene?
4. How does this action move the story forward?
5. How does each scene contribute to the overall story?
6. What is the worst thing that can happen to your character(s)?
7. How does your character prevent it from happening?
8. What happens if your character *cannot* prevent it from happening?
9. What key events change the main characters in your story?