# Ideas Generation Cards & Building Off Them

**Instructions**

Part.1

1. Select three Ideas Generation Cards from the sheet overleaf by drawing them from a deck or rolling a pair of dice.
2. Generate three short prompts or starting points for a narrative game by following the instructions on your three cards.
3. For each of your three prompts, match it with a card drawn from the Game Form Cards on page 3 (or select a form card by rolling a die). If you are satisfied with your results write them down, if not keep going.
4. Repeat until you have three ideas you are happy with.

Part.2

In groups of two or three, compare your favourite ideas from the three you’ve made and start to think:

What’s the story/concept?

Are there any other important things to know? e.g. style, tone, subtext, meaning, etc.

What would the core mechanic of the concept be?

What kind of setting/storyworld would the story be set in?

Why should a player care about the story?

Who is the audience? (Or rather, your ideal audience?)

**Ideas Generation Cards**

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| 1. **Mis-translate**   Take a source paragraph & translate it into another language in Google Translate. Take the new text and translate it into a further language. Repeat. Translate back into English and pick out the most striking idea or image. | 1. **Found Text**   Go for a walk. Find some text.  It could be signage, on a poster, a product,  something someone is reading etc.).  Pick out the most striking idea or image. |
| 1. **Templates**   Draw a shape (square, triangle, star etc.) on a piece of paper (with dimensions of about 3-4cm). Cut it out. Put this template on an existing prose work  (in print or digital). Transcribe the new text and pick out the best idea or image. | 1. **Ekphrasis**   Find a piece of visual art.  What does that piece of art do? Translate it into  a two sentence plot description which could be used  as a prompt for a narrative game. |
| 1. **4th Noun Wiki**   Go to a random Wikipedia page. Note down the 4th  noun in the article. Repeat until you have a list of  at least 12. Edit into a short plot description.  en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:Random  or ‘Random article’ link on sidebar  or ‘Alt-Shift’ + ‘X’ in some browsers | 1. **Random Wiki Splice**   Grab the prose from at least two random  Wikipedia pages. Splice them.  You may wish to use a cut-up machine. Pick out the most striking image or plot prompt.  en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:Random  or ‘Random article’ link on sidebar  or ‘Alt-Shift’ + ‘X’ in some browsers  languageisavirus.com/cutupmachine.php |
| 1. **Random Wiki (Simple)**   Go to a random Wikipedia page. Edit some of the text into a narrative description (or plot descrption). Follow one  of the links and repeat. Repeat at least one  further iteration.  en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:Random  or ‘Random article’ link on sidebar  or ‘Alt-Shift’ + ‘X’ in some browsers | 1. **Random Metaphor**   Pick a noun at random from a dictionary.  Pick a second one.  Describe the first (without mentioning it), using  the second. Use this as a prompt for a narrative game. |
| 1. **N+7 Prompt**   Find some prose online or  in a book. Replace every noun from that text with  the seventh noun after it in a dictionary.  Pick out the best plot prompt or image.  (there are some N+7 generators online which will  do the process for you) | 1. **Lipogram ‘E’**   Write a paragraph which does  not use the letter ‘e.’ Pick out the strangest phrase. |
| 1. **Anagram**   Pick a long phrase or sentence from a source text (perhaps your original ideas generation matrix). Put it into an online anagram solver. Edit the most exciting or vibrant anagram into a plot prompt. | 1. **Distraction**   Write a paragraph freely and as fast as you can under  duress. For instance you might stand on one  leg, touch your nose, and write it with your  weaker hand. You may enlist a  friend to distract you. Pick out the strongest image or phrase as your narrative prompt. |

**Game Form Cards**

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| 1. **Adventure (Branching Narrative)** | 1. **Adventure (Non-Linear Narrative)** |
| 1. **Role Playing (RPG)** | 1. **Action (Choose your own subcategory)** |
| 1. **Genre (Choose your own)** | 1. **Combine two of your prompts and draw another Game Form Card** |