



# Conflict Worksheet

For High School Students

If you have filled out your Protagonist Worksheet and Antagonist Worksheet, you already have some great stuff to start off your script’s plot with a thrilling conflict. Look back at your Protagonist Worksheet and copy the answers to the following questions in the spaces below. We encourage you to add more detail when you do.

1. What is the one thing your protagonist fears most? This will set up your protagonist’s “internal conflict.” Throughout your script, he or she will be simultaneously battling to overcome these fears and the antagonist. In many scripts the protagonist must conquer his or her fears *in order* to defeat the antagonist.

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2. What does your character want more than anything else in the world?

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Before you move on to the second portion of this worksheet, we would like to introduce three of the most common types of dramatic conflict:

**1. The antagonist and protagonist want the same thing.** This is common in many genres, from comedies to drama. Both characters may be after the same love interest, fighting over the same landmass, or traveling far and wide for the same collectible Star Wars figurine. They could also both want the same thing in that they both want to “destroy” the other. Whatever the shared desire is, when two people want the same thing, conflict will inevitably ensue.

**2. The antagonist wants nothing more than to see the protagonist fail at getting what he or she wants.** This conflict is less common and a little more complicated. Many times, this type of conflict depicts an eager “go-getter” pursuing a dream, and an antagonist that, for one reason or another, wants to see him or her fail. The antagonist’s motive may be a number of things—jealousy, revenge, racial intolerance, etc. No matter the motive, and no matter if your protagonist wants to become the president of the United States or win a three-legged race at a family reunion, the antagonist will do anything in to stand between the protagonist and that dream.

**3. The antagonist and protagonist have opposing desires.** This causes all sorts of problems. For example, there is sure to be conflict if your protagonist wants world peace and your antagonist wants to initiate World War III. Or if your protagonist wants to go to the Star Trek convention and your antagonist hates Star Trek so much that he or she devises a global plan to hijack all busses, trains, and airplanes headed to the convention. Usually, the two characters know nothing of each other before they are forced to fight it out in a battle of good versus evil.



Now, take out that Antagonist Worksheet. Think about the above conflicts as you rewrite the answers to the following questions:

3. What is the one thing your antagonist fears most? This will set up your antagonist’s “internal conflict.” Yes, your antagonist has fears too, and his or her fears are really important. Not only will this villainous internal conflict help you create a more dynamic and realistic antagonist, it will also create a weak spot that your protagonist can take advantage of.

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4. What does your antagonist want more than anything else in the world?

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5. Look back and see what your main character wants more than anything in the world. How is the villain preventing your main character from getting what he or she wants, and why?

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6. Which conflict have you created for your Script Frenzy script? (Check one)

- Your antagonist and protagonist want the same thing
- Your antagonist wants nothing more than to see your protagonist fail
- Your antagonist and protagonist have opposing desires



Congratulations! No matter what kind of conflict your script has, you have the essence of what makes any story compelling—your main character is going after a dream, and his or her fears and the antagonist are in the way. In just a moment, you will have your plot, or in other words *how* your main character makes that dream come true by overcoming those obstacles.