

# A.D.A.

Artefact Detention Agency

A solo roleplaying game.

Endless Wonders. Endless Possibilities. Endless Bureaucracy.



r202304-002

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# Introduction

In A.D.A., you are an agent of a secretive agency, bound to protect the world from mysterious artefacts. You will investigate strange events in order to find these artefacts before they fall into the wrong hands. But being part of an agency doesn't always come with perks. The agency is riddled with unnecessary bureaucracy that makes life ever so harder.

Whereas in traditional roleplaying game you would need someone to guide you through the adventure you can play A.D.A. completely alone or together with someone else. The game is focused on the story you develop during play and as such is fuelled mostly by your imagination.

## Material Needed

To play A.D.A. you do not need much:

- A bunch of **six-sided dice** (also written as **d6**). About 10 should be enough.
- **Paper and Pencil** to write down important things. Ideally you have some index cards to write on, but normal paper will do fine as well.
- Optionally printed out copies of various sheets that you can find at the end of the book.

**D66.** In this book you might be asked to roll a d66 (d-six-six). To do so, roll two six-sided dice. The first will show you the tens of the resulting number and the later the unit. Ideally you should roll two different colored dice or roll one die twice and note down the result between each roll. For example if you roll first a 4 and on the second roll a 3, the resulting number would be interpreted as 43.

**D3.** Occasionally you might also be asked to roll a d3. Just roll a six-sided dice and half (rounding up) the resulting number. For example a 5 on a six-sided die would be interpreted as 3 on a d3. There might be also rarely the case, when you need to roll a d33 (d-three-three). Follow the same procedure as you would when rolling a d66 but interpreting each rolled result as a d3 instead.

## Disclaimer

This rulebook is a work in progress. In its current state it is mostly just a collection of various rules and mechanics that I noted down. They are in no way cohesive, balanced, well-written or playtested. It is a very rough draft.

# Inspiration

A.D.A. was inspired ...

- ... by **TV-Shows and Movies**: Warehouse 13, The Librarian(s), Raiders of the Lost Ark
- ... by **RPGs**: Ironsworn, FATE, Blades in the Dark, Vaesen (Year Zero Engine), Tremulus RPG

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# Contact

If you want to send me feedback or ideas, feel free to drop me a message on reddit [/u/ShyCentaur](#).

# Changelog

## r202304-002

Clarifying when Notice is gained but the clock is already full. Also added some hints during the showdown on what the solution should at least include.

## r202304-001

Adding *Notice* and *Scene Complication* to add more tension into the game. Increasing Notice will potentially lead to more chaos and conflict. Also refactored the way pushing works. Instead of gaining a condition it now increases the Notice. Thus it will create a delayed consequence.

## r202211-001

Redesigned investigation. The four major questions were a too strict framework for an investigation. The new system allows for more freedoms in how a case is shaping and thus should create more interesting stories. There also has been some restructuring of the overall layout, by providing smaller page margins to get more stuff on individual pages. Consequence and Scars tables have been implemented as a first draft (down to only one scar table incorporating mental and physical scars).

Overall the base mechanisms should now be fleshed out and work cohesively with each other. Fight has been renamed Agility.

## r202205-001

Overworked the Treatment section. Instead of having four distinct treatment options there is now just one with variable outcome. The effects should be similar but it takes much less effort to remember how to use treatment. In addition made sure that everything is matching on the three basic action and certain other "actions" are just variation on these basic action (such as treatment). Treatment is now also a Trait Test instead of an individual skill test.

### **r202204-001**

Fleshed out Case Assignment with the new base ruleset. The hazard system wasn't really working and limited the design space a bit too much. Also the investigation just ended. There was no real climatic end-battle, you would just win when all 4 questions have been answered.

### **r202203-001**

Major overhaul of the core mechanics. Everything is a dice pool now and everything is adding or subtracting from the amount of dice you are rolling. The "health" system was also overhauled and now more relies on a set of predefined conditions, to keep the bookkeeping low. There's also some redesign on some of the chapters (character creation got moved to its own chapter, so was the profiles).

### **r202112-001**

- introducing case assignments

### **r202111-002**

- renamed **Investigate** skill to **Logic**
- correcting character sheet

### **r202111-001**

*First Version*

# Basic Field Training

## Aspects

Everything and everyone in A.D.A. can be described with aspects. They will help to form the story and form conflict. When you are unsure about where to go in the story, have a look at the available aspects and let them guide you. They are an instrumental part of the experience.

They are short sentences, phrases or even just single words that describes something about the character, environment or object you are looking at. Aspects are often double-edged: they can provide you support but can also be detrimental in your endeavours. If you can think about a way to use an aspect to your advantage and a way how it may hinder you, then it is a good aspect.

Throughout this book aspects will *be highlighted* so you can easily spot them.

You will encounter different type of aspects in your games. The main thing that differentiates these aspects are how long they last and to what they might be attached too.

**World Aspects.** These are the truth about your world. They are mostly permanent and will never go away, but might change slightly over long period of time. These are universal truths, describe problems or major threats in the world. They are always available to use.

**Character Aspects.** Aspects that describe a character, their persona, goals, believes and relationships. These differentiate characters from each other and makes them unique. Similar to world aspects these might change but only by inducing some form of stress. Believes need to be shattered utterly to be changed and certain ticks and behaviours are hard to shed. As these aspects are attached to characters they go wherever the character goes. If it isn't present in a scene they can't be used (for good or for worse).

**Situation Aspects.** They only exist for a short period of time. Mostly during a scene or until the situation resolves itself. These can be current weather, an obstacle, environmental features or certain details that are specific to a scene. Situation aspects can change rather rapidly. They come and go and more often then not become obstacles the characters need to overcome. They can also be created by characters to gain an advantage.

## Agents

Characters directly under the control of the player are called player characters or agents. A player can take control of one or more of such characters during a session. Other characters not under direct control of the player are called non-player characters or NPCs.

An agent is defined by

- Traits and Skills
- Abilities
- Personality

All these definitions and more are noted down on a Character Sheet (or Agent Evaluation Form). This acts as a reminder on who you are in the world of A.D.A. Take care of all your characters as if they were yourself.

## Traits and Skills

A character has three traits: **Physical**, **Mental** and **Social**. These describe in a general way on how a character interacts with the world. Each trait has associated skills that describe how these traits are used. When you interact with the environment you will mostly use these skills.

The skills are

PHYSICAL	MENTAL	SOCIAL
Physique	Will	Contacts
Agility	Empathy	Deceive
Stealth	Lore	Rapport
Intimidate	Logic	Notice

Traits and Skills have a rating between zero (0) and four (4). The higher the rating, the more likely you are to succeed at actions using that particular skill. Some effects can reduce and increase the rating of a trait or skill. The rating can never fall below zero in such cases.

Similarly the rating of a trait is determined by counting the number of skills that have at least a rating of one (1) associated to that trait.

**EXAMPLE.** A character with skills and ratings Stealth 2, Intimidate 1, Agility 0 and Will 3 would have the following trait ratings: Physical 2, Mental 1 and Social 0.

## Abilities

Each character has unique abilities that can alter how a skill is used under certain circumstances. They can also define a way you can behave in precarious situations. They change the rules of the game in a profound way and are very powerful. Abilities allow a skill to be used for something it is normally not intended to do, or to empower an existing skill.

You always have a choice when to use your ability and when not. Some of them can only be used a very limited amount of times before the character has to recuperate in order to use that ability again.

## Personality

Beyond measurable characteristics an agent has mannerisms, experiences and behaviours that are unique to that character. These are specified as aspects. A new character starts with two such aspects: High Concept and Flaw. During the game the character might gain new aspects, change old ones or lose some entirely. As with all aspects, these can be beneficial and as well be detrimental to your efforts.

The **High Concept** defines who the character is in the first place, what it does. This could be a previous profession, a title or just a lifestyle. Examples include *Former Captain of the 55th Precinct* or *Hopeless Playboy*.

Nobody is perfect and the **Flaw** of a character represents this fact. The flaw is something that holds the character back in certain situations and is very hard if not downright impossible for the character to overcome in his or her lifetime. These could be personal struggles (such as *alcoholic*)

or impulses that are hard to shake or maybe even past relationships (*I was part of a street gang*) that make it harder for the character.

## Profile

The agency categorizes its employees by a profile. This profile determines a set of skills and abilities that represent that particular type of agent. Every agent corresponds to exactly one of these profiles.

## Tests

Whenever there exists uncertainty about an action, the agents will test their skills and trait to see what the outcome is. There are different types of tests, but most commonly these will be either Skill or Trait Tests.

To perform a test, you will create a pool of dice. You start with a number of dice equal to the rating of the kind of test you are doing. So if you are doing a Skill Test, the pool will consist of the number of dice equal to that chosen skill. Some Tests might have a different way of building the pool, but this will be explained for that test.

You then roll all of the dice in the pool and determine the outcome of the roll, by picking the die with the highest result. Should you have a rating of zero and you are attempting a test, roll two dice and pick the lower of these dice as your result. Even though you rolled two dice, only one is considered when determining the outcome of the action.

- You **succeed** the test, if the value is 6 - things go as you have planned.
- You **partially succeed** the test, if the value is 4 or 5 - you succeed but at a cost.
- You **fail** the test, if the value is 1, 2 or 3 - the goal is out of reach and there might be consequences.
- If you roll 2 or more 6 in a single roll, you would **critically succeed** this test instead. It counts as a normal success but there might be additional benefits depending on the test.

**CHANCE OF SUCCESS.** The following table shows you the basic chances for different types of succeeding at a test.

NUMBER OF DICE	CRITICAL SUCCESS	SUCCESS	PARTIAL SUCCESS
0	-	3%	25%
1	-	17%	33%
2	3%	31%	44%
3	7%	42%	45%
4	13%	52%	42%
5	20%	60%	37%
6	26%	67%	32%
7	33%	72%	27%
8	40%	77%	~23%
9	46%	81%	~19%
10	52%	84%	~16%



## Boon and Bane

As the agents are investigating they will interact with their surroundings and either turn the situation to their favor or to their detriment. This is represented by boons and banes. These are attached to aspects. There are different ways of noting them, but most commonly with different symbols next to the aspect, so that they can be struck through once they are used. Examples might be squares for boons and circles for banes, or an upwards facing triangle for a boon and downwards facing triangles for banes.

An aspect can have multiple banes or boons and even both. Note however, that even when the aspect has both, they do not cancel each other out.

When performing a test, you can use boons and bane to increase or decrease the pool of dice before rolling for the outcome.

You may spend a **Boon** to add one (1) die to the dice pool for that test. The boon is then spent and can't be used again. You can only use one boon per aspect for each test, but if multiple aspects have a boon, you can use one on each of them as well.

You have to use a **Bane** to remove one (1) die from the dice pool for that test. This is not optional, but you only spend one bane per aspect. If multiple aspects have a bane, you remove a die for each of these. The bane is then spent and can't be used again.

In case you use Banes and Boons at the same time, you apply the result of each to the dice pool first and then roll the dice pool. If the dice pool should be reduced to a negative number in this way, the test automatically fails.

Boons and Banes are created during gameplay and as mentioned are normally associated to an aspect. In case there is no such aspect, the boon or bane is fleeting and must be used in the next action but before the current scene ends.

## Pushing

Sometimes the success of a test is critical so an agent can push itself to their limits. When an agent pushes a test, they may add two (2) dice to the dice pool of the test before rolling for outcome. But in doing so, the Notice level (see page 29) will increase by one (1). The agents' efforts will not go unnoticed.

The agent can only push once per test.

## Consequences

Failing or partially failing in tests will bear consequences (as all actions in life will). More often than not, these consequences will work against the current plans. They introduce some sort of additional obstacles or opposition into the situation. When failing multiple times, these consequences could even escalate to the point where they create a situation that needs immediate attention or end scenes altogether.

When an agent is asked to suffer consequences, you choose one of these possibilities to resolve it:

- Imagine a negative outcome of the test and make that happen
- Imagine to negative outcomes and make a Oracle Roll (more on that later) with *Likely* to decide between the two (consider one of the options as Yes)
- Roll on the table below. If the result doesn't fit or you have difficulty interpreting the result you can roll again.

D66	CONSEQUENCE
11	Someone or something is turning against you
12 / 13	Someone or something is lost
14 / 15	An ally is in danger
16 / 21	Something of value is destroyed
22 / 23	A hazard is taking an opportunity
24 / 25 / 26	Your actions have unintended consequences to others
31 / 32 / 33	The consequence of an earlier action worsens the current situation
34 / 35 / 36	A tough choice needs to be taken
41 / 42 / 43	There are signs of a threat
44 / 45 / 46	A new hazard presents itself
51 / 52 / 53	A new complication threatens your progress
54 / 55	There is a delay or disadvantage
56 / 61	An agent is physically harmed
62 / 63	An agent gets mentally stressed
64 / 65	An agent is getting exposed
66	Roll two more times and apply the results

**NARRATIVE VS MECHANICAL.** Consequences don't always have to be something mechanical, such as getting a condition or a scar. Narrative consequences can have a powerful impact on the story as well. Some narrative consequences might not seem to be consequential in the beginning but might affect later scenes. For example, the loss of an item might not seem impactful at first, but might play a major part later, when it turns out that it is part of the solution. The table will tend to give you more narrative prompts and as such should be mostly rolled when you need a narrative interpretation of the consequence.

But don't think you have to come up with narrative consequences all the time. It is perfectly fine to be just mechanical if the situation calls for it. You see something terrifying, just make the character suffer the **Frightened** condition and move on. It fits the situation perfectly.

## Actions

Actions are the most common way, agents are interacting with the world and investigate a case. Effects of such actions deal with aspects in some form or the other. They will create, alter or remove aspects and thus changing the current situation. In A.D.A. there are three actions you can take: **Overcome**, **Create Advantage** and **Exploit Advantage**.

### Overcome

During your investigations, the characters will encounter several obstacles and opposition. This action lets you deal with these problems. Most of the actions will fall into this type and it is broadly available for most of the skills. You can either use this action to deal with an aspect (such as **Locked Door**) or create a broader goal such as climb a tree. The action should have a goal defined before you roll and a possible consequence if you fail to achieve this goal.

Then perform a Skill Test and compare the outcome:

- On **Critical Success**: You attain your goal and get a boon
- On **Success**: You attain your goal without any consequence
- On **Partial Success**: You attain your goal but with consequences
- On **Failure**: You fail at your goal and suffer consequences

## Create Advantage

The **Create Advantage** action lets you change the environment and situation to your benefit. This will create aspects to provide help to you or your allies. Before you roll, define the goal (aspect) you want to create and how, and what happens if you should fail.

Then perform a Skill Test and compare the outcome:

- On **Critical Success**: You create the aspect and it gets two boons
- On **Success**: You create the aspect and it gets one boon
- On **Partial Success**: Choose one - You create the aspect with a bane or you don't create the aspect but get a boon
- On **Failure**: Choose one - You create the aspect but it gets one bane or you don't create the aspect and suffer consequences

## Exploit Advantage

Once aspects have been established they can be exploited. This could mean actively interacting with the surroundings or being observant of certain things that gives an edge (like knowing the timing of the *patrolling guard*). Before you roll, define how the aspect is exploited and how, and what happens if you should fail.

Then perform a Skill Test and compare the outcome:

- On **Critical Success**: You gain two boons on this aspect
- On **Success**: You gain one boon on this aspect
- On **Partial Success**: You gain one boon on this aspect but suffer consequences
- On **Failure**: The aspect gains one bane

## Conflict

In most cases, conflict should be avoided. But sometimes it can't be helped. Conflict describes everything that actively hinders the agent. Agents have to take drastic measures, sometimes even by sheer force to achieve their goals. But such force always has a price.

## Conditions

Conflict leaves its marks. Conditions are the immediate consequence of such conflicts. It can be physical such as a strained ankle or a cut. But it also can be mental, such as fear or headaches. They represent a short-term setback, but if not treated they can become long-term scars (more on that later on). An agent can only take so much, before it becomes too much and they have to abandon the case altogether. So you should keep a watch on the conditions an agent receives.

Conditions come as a predefined list of aspects and are noted on the agent evaluation form. Whenever you gain a condition mark one of the conditions not already marked - you should choose one that makes most sense in the narrative, but any is fine. As aspects the can gain boons and banes as any aspect could. In addition, every condition is linked to one of the three traits. Whenever you perform a skill or trait test that uses a skill within that trait, you remove one (1) die from the dice pool of that test, for every condition that matches that trait.

## Broken

When an agent has four or more (4+) conditions and would gain another one, the agent becomes broken in addition. The first time an agent becomes broken and any subsequent time the gain a condition, they also gain a scar.

A broken agent is at the end of one's tether. They took a beating or got broken mentally. It is the state before they lose consciousness and they need immediate attention. Such an agent can't partake in any actions or aid and uses all their remaining power to stay conscious.

**ON BEING BROKEN.** Becoming broken doesn't mean that the agent dies immediately. It also doesn't mean that the agents fail their mission. Getting broken could also mean that they get caught and interrogated and they have to flee. Or some times passes - as they get taken to the hospital by some bystanders but in the meantime other things happen.

## Scars

Scars are a constant reminder of past struggles. Whenever an agent gains a scar, roll on the table below or choose an appropriate scar.

Scars, similar to conditions, are noted on the agent evaluation form and act as additional aspects for that agent. Each of the scars has a specific effect that is unique to that scar. They oftentimes limit the use of skills or abilities in a certain way. But in rare cases they can also provide insight or help in other ways. Not all scars are bad by definition. They are part of a character and show the experiences the agent gained. An agent can have the same scar only once but there is no limit on how many an agent can "acquire".

Some scars have a time limit attached to them. They are so detrimental that they need immediate attention and have to be stabilized within this time limit or the agent will die as a consequence or be otherwise unable to participate in this or any other case.

Effects of scars are applied as modifiers to any test for that skill, similar to boons and banes. Some scars have an additional effect once they become permanent. This additional effect can be an additional modifier to further tests, or it can include that the agent learns a completely new ability. The character has learned to live with a particular scar and compensates by having learned something new.

D66	SCAR	LIMIT	EFFECT
11	Fracture	-	Physique -1
12	Clumsiness	-	Agility -1
13	Claustrophobia	-	Stealth -1
14	Shattered confidence	-	Intimidate -1
15	Skittish	-	Will -1
16	Impaired Empathy	-	Empathy -1

Continued on next page

D66	SCAR	LIMIT	EFFECT
21	Forgetful	-	Lore -1
22	Confused	-	Logic -1
23	Lack of trust	-	Contacts -1
24	Shaken	-	Deceive -1
25	Egocentric	-	Rapport -1
26	Tinitus	-	Notice -1
31	Tremors	-	Physique -2; <i>When Permanent:</i> Will +1
32	Nerve damage	-	Agility -2; <i>When Permanent:</i> Empathy +1
33	Impaired impulsive control	-	Stealth -2; <i>When Permanent:</i> Lore +1
34	Ashamed	-	Intimidate -2; <i>When Permanent:</i> Logic +1
35	Overwhelmed	-	Will -2; <i>When Permanent:</i> Contacts +1
36	Disgusted	-	Empathy -2; <i>When Permanent:</i> Deceive +1
41	Hearing voices	-	Lore -2; <i>When Permanent:</i> Rapport +1
42	Fear of death	-	Logic -2; <i>When Permanent:</i> Notice +1
43	Compulsive liar	-	Contacts -2; <i>When Permanent:</i> Physique +1
44	Capricious	-	Deceive -2; <i>When Permanent:</i> Agility +1
45	Paranoid	-	Rapport -2; <i>When Permanent:</i> Intimidate +1
46	Impaired hearing	-	Notice -2; <i>When Permanent:</i> Stealth +1
51	Paralyzed	weeks	Intimidate -2; <i>When Permanent:</i> gain <b>NOTICE</b> ability
52	Panic attacks	weeks	Will -2; <i>When Permanent:</i> gain <b>AGILITY</b> ability
53	Split consciousness	weeks	Contacts -2; <i>When Permanent:</i> gain <b>EMPATHY</b> ability
54	Loss of limb	days	Agility -2; <i>When Permanent:</i> gain <b>CONTACTS</b> ability
55	Abandonment issues	days	Empathy -2; <i>When Permanent:</i> gain <b>INTIMIDATE</b> ability
56	Furious	days	Deceive -2; <i>When Permanent:</i> gain <b>LOGIC</b> ability
61	Extreme muscle tensions	hours	Stealth -2; <i>When Permanent:</i> gain <b>DECEIVE</b> ability
62	Coma	hours	Lore -2; <i>When Permanent:</i> gain <b>STEALTH</b> ability
63	PTSD	hours	Rapport -2; <i>When Permanent:</i> gain <b>LORE</b> ability
64	Sepsis	minutes	Physique -2; <i>When Permanent:</i> gain <b>RAPPORT</b> ability
65	Brain injury	minutes	Logic -2; <i>When Permanent:</i> gain <b>PHYSIQUE</b> ability
66	Dissociated	minutes	Notice -2; <i>When Permanent:</i> gain <b>WILL</b> ability

**GAINING ABILITIES.** Some scar will let the character gain a new ability. This represents the agent having learned to live with the scar and developing an ability to compensate for this defect. To gain an ability, select one ability from the associated skill list, or come up with an appropriate ability yourself. Your character will keep this ability even if the associated scar would be removed.

## Scars in Roleplay

Scars are a part of your character. Some of them are directly visible, as physical scars. Others might be hidden from view but still affect the behaviour of your character, such as emotional scars. Apart from affecting one of the skills directly, they can also affect certain choices and decisions outside of a test. Some scars can be seen by others as a stigma or defect. Other scars might hinder you in participating in a specific action altogether and fail them automatically, such when you would be trying to chase someone on foot with a **broken leg**. Emotional scars could even paralyze you in the moment, when you are confronted by a traumatizing event similar to when you got the scar. Conversely scars can sometimes even open doors and surprise in other ways. Such as finding a common ground with another character that has a similar scar.

Scars change the character. That is one of the reasons why they are noted on the Agent Evaluation Form. They influence the character in the same way High Concepts and Flaws influence character actions and decisions.

## Treatment

Every agent has received basic medical training to treat most wounds directly on the assignment. This treatment isn't the best and can't heal any injury, but it will do, to keep the agent going. Full treatment can be had at the headquarters with specialized personnel with years of experience (or so they claim - some injuries inflicted by artefacts are one of a kind).

Treatment occurs in its own scene. Every agent in the scene can take a **Overcome** action once, to treat. Instead of doing a Skill Test, the agent does a Trait Test instead with one of the three Traits. Physical treatment is the raw physical effort to treat an injury, such as cauterizing open wounds or creating a basic bandage. Mental treatment is to use logic and knowledge to treat wounds, such as remembering the correct antidote to poisons or how to effectively treat certain conditions or to calm the emotions. Social treatment might be the effort of seeking others help with more knowledge to treat wounds, such as doctors or other personnel.

As treatment is an action, if the agent is broken they can't take that action. If they however lose the broken condition as part of the same scene and they did not yet seek treatment, they can then seek treatment as well.

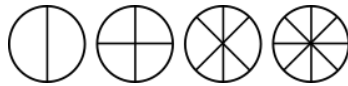
- On **Critical Success**: You choose two (2) different options from the list below.
- On **Success**: You choose one (1) options from the table below.
- On **Partial Success**: Same as success, but you also suffer consequences.
- On **Failure**: You suffer consequences.

The options are:

- **Stabilize Scar**: Remove the time limit of a scar on any agent in the scene. The scar and its effect remain.
- **Treat Broken**: Any agent (other than self) is no longer broken.
- **Rest**: Heal two (2) conditions other than broken on the agent taking the action.
- **Take Care**: Heal one (1) condition other than broken on the agent taking the action and any other agent in the same scene.
- **Prepare**: Start the next scene with a boon.

## Clocks

A clock represents a progress in a particular process, such as overcoming a hazard with fortitude. In its simplest form, a clock consists of a circle that is divided into segments. You can also use a set of checkboxes or any other form that lets you mark progress. The more segments a clock has, the more complex the process is.



One segment denotes a specific amount of time that has passed. Every segment denotes the same amount of time (although you don't have to draw those segments perfectly equal). The amount can be different, depending on what progress the clock represents. It could be minutes for a bomb that is going to explode or could be something abstract, such as a specific amount of scenes before something happens.

Only use clocks when the situation is complex or you need to track something over time. If something can be resolved with a single roll, you do not need a clock.

**CREATING CLOCKS.** A clock should represent the obstacle or hazard and not the method. This means that you should create a clock for *ticking bomb* and not defusing the bomb. There are many ways to overcome the ticking bomb and defusing is just one way.

**INVESTIGATIONS ON A CLOCK.** As an optional rule, you can put the whole case on a clock. Mark a segment for every scene and when the clock runs out, the showdown is happening.

## Oracles

When playing alone or co-operatively, you might end up in situations where you need to spark ideas or find out what is happening next. Oracles are a way of generating random results that help guide such questions and most often come in the form of tables. You have encountered some of them already. You roll the indicated dice and compare the result on the table. You can also use the table to select one of the entries if it matches the narrative directly instead of rolling dice.

Sometimes there is no dedicated table available, but you need to clarify certain aspects of the story, trigger ideas or move the story along. In this case you can do a generic **Oracle Test**. It is commonly used to answer a “yes” or “no” question. You can also use such a test to decide between two different options. To determine the size of the dice pool, choose a likelihood that the question would be answered with “yes” (or the first option is chosen - when deciding between two options). The table below then gives you the amount of dice in the dice pool. This pool cannot be altered as you would do in a normal test, but the procedure is the same.

LIKELIHOOD	POOL
Unlikely	0
50/50	1
Likely	2
Very Likely	3

You roll all the dice in the pool and then determine the outcome.

- On **Critical Success** or **Success**: The answer is “yes” or you choose the first of two options
- On **Partial Success**: Same as on Success, but you suffer consequences
- On **Failure**: The answer is “no”

When you ask questions about the environment or the current situation, you can also create aspects as part of the test. For example if you asked “Is it night?” and the oracle answered “yes”, then you would add a new situational aspect **Nighttime**. Consequences in such situation could be, that such a generated aspect gains a bane.

**ASKING THE ORACLE.** When asking the oracle in such a way, you should be mindful on how you ask these questions. You shouldn’t ask questions that could be resolved by a different test or action. Bad examples would be “Do I defeat the guard?” or “Can I jump over the wall?”. Good questions include queries about the environment or situation and often start with “Is”.

## The Flow of Play

In A.D.A. you will send one or two agents on cases to investigate mysterious events and tell the story of what happens during this mission. You advance through this story by moving from scene to scene. In a scene you encounter different opposition that you will need to overcome in order to investigate and gather clues. Each clue brings you closer to the artefact and its powers.

In roleplaying games you not only play *with* your character, you play *as* your character. The character sheet gives you information on what it might do or wouldn’t do in a situation and this can be completely different from your own behaviour.

If you come to a situation where you don’t know what could happen next, you can try out what feels right to you or you can ask a question to the Oracle. Above all if it is interesting, dramatic and fits the fiction, you’re on the right track.

Embrace all failures. They make the story interesting by introducing new obstacles and hazards your characters need to overcome and represent the chaos and unpredictability of the artefacts in the world.

Above have fun. There’s no wrong in playing A.D.A. if you’re having fun then you are right, even if you don’t get every rule correct the first time around.

## Fiction First

Let the golden rule of “Fiction First” thrive your play. Instead of thinking about what actions to take and how this might affect the characters, let your imagination roam free. Once you figured out what could happen, then roll pick an action and roll the dice. The outcome of an action isn’t telling you what exactly happens but tells you constraints on what you should apply to the fiction to make sense of the roll. Same goes for oracles and their result. They give you vague pointers on what might happen and you should fill out the details within the current situation and what makes most sense in the fiction.

This should give you the general flow of

1. Describe the scene within the fiction
2. Determine what characters would do within the fiction
3. Determine opposition
4. Determine rules applicable
5. Roll action



6. Interpret constraints from outcome

7. Describe the action resolution with these constraints within the fiction

To note here is that every decision should make sense within the constraints of your fiction. *Create Advantage* is a powerful tool and you could just create an aspect that immediately resolves any situation (such as a deus ex machina). But this would probably not make sense within the fiction so it should not come to any action resolution. Similarly the outcome constraints should make sense in the same fiction.

You can also see, that the flow is somewhat cyclical. Once you have finished the action description, the situation has changed and you can describe that new scene and with that begin anew with the flow.

# Agent Assessment

## Hiring

The agency is always on the lookout for new agents. Rarely are people seeking this kind of employment of their own, but the agency is somehow mysteriously selecting candidates of their own. It might be because nobody has any clue what is going on in this big bureaucracy anyway or some other force is choosing new prospects. Most of the people working at the agency got this job by some form of luck, fate or some other reason.

New possible agents come from various background and lifestyles. Different approaches to problems is what the agency needs in order to deal with artefacts. Thinking outside the box saved more than one life. Nonetheless there is a strict assessment for new hires and protocols to follow. The progress is noted down on the Agent Evaluation Form. Then reviewed, copied and archived.

The hiring process is carried out in the following steps:

1. Select Profile
2. Determine Personality
3. Measure Skills
4. Rate Abilities
5. Record Identity

## Select Profile

At the beginning of the hiring assessment, the applicant will need to fill out an extensive questionnaire to determine the new agent's profile. Each agent is assigned such a profile. The agency uses this as a method of gauging once general demeanor and approaches in order to efficiently select the correct missions to guarantee success - or so they claim. Nobody actually understands these tests and profiles and they don't make much sense in the greater scheme of things. It also doesn't help that the average time to complete this questionnaire is a little under 8 hours.

A profile gives you a set of abilities and possible personalities you can choose from during this character creation. Each of the profiles are described in further detail below. Once an agent has selected a profile it can't be changed.

## Determine Personality

In this step you will determine the agent's *High Concept* and *Flaw*.

For the High Concept, roll two dice on the respective table on the profile. The first die will determine a descriptive adjective and the second a background (or profession). From this you can

construct an aspect by interpreting the results or just use the results as an aspect as their own. Instead of rolling you can also select freely entries on the table.

For the flaw you proceed similarly but you will only roll one die and consult the table for descriptions of possible Flaws.

## **Measure Skills**

Each profile determines a set of starting skills. Note down the ratings of these skills on the Evaluation Form. You then proceed and distribute additional points in skills according to the following scheme:

- 1 point to a skill that emphasizes your High Concept
- 1 point to a skill that emphasizes your Flaw
- 2 points to any skills of your choice

For every point you can increase the rating of a skill by one. Note however that the rating can't exceed 2 when doing so.

## **Rate Abilities**

Choose one of the abilities provided on the profile or select one of them randomly and record it.

## **Record Identity**

Lastly imagine what your new agent looks like, what do they wear. And most importantly give them a name.

# Skills

**WORK IN PROGRESS.** This section will contain more detailed description of each skill as well as a selection of separate abilities for each skill.

## Physique

Physique describes the physical qualities of the body of an agent. It represents raw strength, endurance, constitution and how well these attributes can be applied in situations. Brute force is mostly used as a solution in actions. But it can also help in unfavourable climate to withstand longer the harsh situation.

This raw strength can also be used against others not just by hurting them, but also grappling and holding people or objects in place. Even for longer period of times. It can be used to create obstacles to others such as pushing a heavy object into another persons way to help a quick getaway.

### D3 ABILITY

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- 1 **HIT FIRST, ASK LATER.** Gain 2 dice the first time you use the overcome action using your physique.

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  - 2 **STAY PUT.** Once per case, you can prevent a suspect or character from running away or leaving.

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  - 3 **HARDENED PHYSIQUE.** Ignore the first physical condition you would suffer once per case.
-

## Profiles

**WORK IN PROGRESS.** For now there is only a singular profile to choose from. This section will in the end contain more profiles but for now this is mostly considered a proof-of-concept.

# The Inspector

## High Concept

D3	DESCRIPTOR
1	Detail-oriented
2	Observant
3	Logical and Practical

D3	BACKGROUND
1	Lawyer
2	Police Officer or Detective
3	Doctor

## Flaw

D3	FLAW
1	Judgmental
2	Subjective
3	Insensitive

## Starting Skills

SKILL	RATING
Logic	2
Notice	1

## Abilities

D3	
1	<b>IT'S ALL CONNECTED.</b> Add or subtract 1 to the focus table roll.
2	<b>ONE MORE QUESTION.</b> Gain 2 dice when doing a skill test, when trying to get information from another character.
3	<b>FOCUSED.</b> Ignore all negative penalties from Conditions when doing a skill test involving <b>Logic</b> .

# Agent Development

**WORK IN PROGRESS.** This section will describe on how to “level up” individual agents, thus improving their skills or gaining new abilities.

# Case Assignment

Agents are assigned cases in order to investigate strange occurrences, possibly involving artefacts. During these cases they encounter dangerous hazards and other characters, that stand in the way of the agents. The goal remains the same: Find out what is causing the trouble and try to detain it, in order to protect the public and keep the artefact away from the wrong hands.

A case consists of multiple scenes, similar to a scene in a movie. A scene might involve the agents gathering clues or trying to protect themselves from the hazards around them.

The structure of a case follows these steps:

1. The Ping
2. The Investigation
3. The Showdown
4. The Debriefing

Similar to an agent, a case has its own sheet that is filled as the case is going. This is called the Case Report, the agency wants immaculate documentation after all. During the case you will fill out this report more and more and it will help the agents to come to a conclusion.

## The Ping

An endless number of analyst is gathering intelligence from around the world about strange occurrences and phenomena. They search through Social Media, News Reports and police records to find clues about potential artefacts. When enough evidence has been gathered, that is concentrated on a specific location and possible phenomena, a new case form is filled out and sent to agents to be further investigated, the artefact involved identified and brought back to the agency - To note: The agency only expects the artefact.

In this step you select the general setup of the new case by selecting

- a **Site**. The site determines on who and what you might encounter during your investigation. Different people, locations or obstacles to overcome.
- a **Singularity**. A artefact has an impact to the environment and strange phenomena will eventually accompany it. The singularity determines what clues you will find that points to the artefact.

The agency classifies each of these parameters in multiple categories from years of experience. You can find a list for both in the Filing Cabinet (p. 34).

Note down the chosen Site and Singularity on the Case Report, give the case a number and then gather the agents you want to send onto this case.



# The Investigation

## Inciting Incident

The agents do not have much to start with. A conspicuous event drew the attention of the agency, created the ping and send the agents on their way. This event is called the inciting incident and is an aspect like many other things in A.D.A. The Incident is related to the singularity and will guide the investigation. If all things fail, the agents can rely back on this initial aspect and restart their investigation anew, if their previous investigation reached a dead-end.

You can come up with a inciting incident or check the choosen singularity for inspiration. Each singularity provides a table from which you can select one at random (by rolling a six-sided die) or you can pick an aspect from the list.

In this phase you can also set the tone and style of your investigation. There are different ways to play out an investigation.

- a classic **Whodunnit**. Your agents are trying to figure out who is in the posession of the artefact or what exactly it is. You follow clues that eventually will point to a culprit and you need to overcome them in the showdown.
- an accelerating **Chase**. Your agents arrive at the scene and watch the culprit fleeing the scene. The case becomes a game of cat and mouse, the agents always one step behind trying to figure out where the culprit hid.
- a struggle against impending **Doom**. The agents encounter the artefact wreaking havoc and try to find a way to stop it, while keeping the innocent bystanders safe.

**SITE ASPECT.** The same site can play out very differently. The world is vast and diverse. You can optionally define an aspect for the site the agents are visitng. Roll on the aspects table on the choosen site or take inspiration from the list. The aspect can influence what and who you might encounter. When unsure you can look back to the aspect and decide accordingly. As an aspect you can also exploit it.

## Location, Location, Location

The agents will visit places when they are on an investigations. Though they might go to many different locations, it is best to focus the story on up to three main locations. Everything major in the case seems to happen here. All the suspects are gathered in one place or something specific always happens at the same location. When in doubt where the agents should go next, consider one of these main locations. You can determine these locations before - as part of the ping, for example - or during the case. The site provides tables to roll upon. Note down these locations on the case report accordingly.

There might be other locations that you want to visit, but they only play a minor role in the overall story. This might be for example a suspects home, a side-street or underground parking lot that your agents are directed to, by the gathered clues. You can also note those down on the case report.

## Investigation Table

At the heart of the case report is the Investigation Table. This tool helps the agents keeping track of all the clues and suspects they have encountered so far and to draw their conclusion on the case.

Each column represents a suspect in the case. A suspect can be anything from a specific person or a suspicious object or event that they witnessed. The rows represent the clues that the agents found.

Both suspects and clues are aspects, like most things in A.D.A. Since they are tied to the case, they can be used in different scenes. You can exploit them like you would normal aspects and as such become very powerful or detrimental in your investigations. This represents the agents pressing suspects to reveal more information or using previously gathered clues to trap suspects into contradictions.

The intersection of the suspects and clues (a cell in the table) represents a connection. Throughout the case the agents will link clues and suspects together and thus create new connections. A connection is marked in the table with a checkmark in the appropriate cell.

Similar to the agents skills and traits, suspects, clues and connections also have a rating. The rating of a connection is the amount of checkmarks in that cell, the rating of a suspect the total amount of checkmarks in that column and the rating of a clue is the total amount of checkmarks in the respective row.

This rating can also be interpreted and can give the agent a hint on what to pursue next in the case.

A high clue rating means, that it might be a broad aspect and thus maybe not providing good insight into the case. For example, when all suspects attended the same event. In such cases it might be more interesting to pursue suspects that have no connection to that clue. Such as people not attending said event and thus might not have an alibi.

A high suspect rating on the other hand points to a potential culprit or mastermind. All clues are pointing to the same thing so it is most likely to be involved. But things might not be as they look. Maybe someone or something is framing somebody else?

And lastly a high rating in a connection means, that this connection might be a linchpin in the investigation and the agents should focus around that connection.

Alongside the investigation table you will also find two clocks. These represent the progress the agents made so far in uncovering suspects and clues. These clocks always have eight (8) segments and are filled by gathering clues and suspects and creating connections.

## Looking for Clues and Suspects

In order to fill the table with detail, the agents need to do some actual investigation. Whenever they **Create an Advantage** they can decide to do so as part of the investigation. Instead of creating an aspect for the current scene, the investigation table is filled.

To do so, decide on the focus of the investigation: Suspects or Clues. Are you searching a victims house for something suspicious, then your focus will probably be Clues. If the agents are questioning witnesses the focus could be Suspects.

Before you resolve the action however, you will roll on the focus table. This table will determine how to interpret the result of the action and how to change the investigation table accordingly. For that you roll a six-sided die and add the progress of the corresponding clock of the chosen focus. We will explain each of the items in the table shortly.

D6 + PROGRESS	CLUE	SUSPECT
1	New Clue	New Suspect
2	New Clue	New Suspect
3	New Clue	New Suspect
4	New Clue	New Suspect
5	Linked Suspect	Linked Clue
6	Linked Suspect	Linked Clue

Continued on next page

D6 + PROGRESS	CLUE	SUSPECT
7	Linked Clue	Linked Suspect
8	New Link	New Link
9	New Link	New Link
10	Enforce Connection	Enforce Connection
11	Decrease Progress	Decrease Progress
12 or more	Roll Twice	Roll Twice

Now you resolve the **Create Advantage** action as normal. When interpreting the outcome, you will create aspects according to the rolled item on the focus table. Boons and Banes are attached to the aspects as normal and can (or will) affect your next roll. Since this is a normal action, you can also use your existing boons and banes, be it from other aspects on the investigation table or from the scene, to help you during the action.

After you have resolved the action and updated the investigation table, you must mark progress on the clock representing the chosen focus. Fill in one more segment of that clock.

To summarise, follow these steps when investigating:

1. determine focus
2. roll on focus table
3. resolve **Create Advantage** action
4. increase progress on clock of chosen focus

**EXAMPLE.** The agents visit the local bar and sit in a corner. As they are fresh in town everybody takes a short glance at them, but then continue chatting amongst each other. After ordering some drinks, the agents take this opportunity to listen in to the conversation in order to find out more on what is happening in town. They decide to **Create an Advantage** as part of their investigation to find out where to go next. Their focus is Clue.

They roll on the Focus table. Since they just got into town and started the case, they have made no progress so far, so it is a straight roll of d6. They rolled a 3. So the result of the action can be interpreted as new clue.

One agent is using their Notice Skill for this action. Carefully listening to the conversations in the bar, although it might be a bit loud. They only have a rating of one (1) but their partner are helping them so they roll two (2) d6. They roll a 2 and a 6. Success. So they create a Clue and get a boon onto it.

They are investigating a temporal singularity, so they choose to roll on the clues tables for that singularity to find out what it might be. They roll a d66 for both the action and descriptor table and get cyclical (22) and behavior (14). They decide to mark this as *people repeating themselves* into one of the clues boxes and give it a boon.

This is some progress, so the progress for Clue is increased by one.

## New Suspect or New Clue

The agents have uncovered a new suspect or clue. Record this by filling out an empty suspect or clue on the investigation table.

If you need inspiration for a suspect, check what hazards, things or events you might have encountered so far. You can also roll on the hazards table of the site if you are unsure.

Similarly you can roll on the clues table of the singularity if you need inspiration. You can roll at least once on the action table and once on the descriptor table.

## Linked Suspect or Linked Clue

Similarly to a new suspect or new clue, the agents have uncovered something new. However this time the suspect or clue is immediately linked. If you created a new suspect it is linked to a clue and vice versa. Roll a d66 or d6 to determine where to link it to. If that rolled suspect or clue is empty, create a new suspect or clue accordingly. Then mark the connection.

## New Link

Clues point to a specific suspect and the agents are about to make that connection. Roll a d66 and d6 and check on the investigation table.

- If both suspect or clue are empty, then create a new Suspect or Clue depending on the chosen focus.
- If one of suspect or clue is empty, then treat this as Linked Suspect or Linked Clue.
- Otherwise create a connection by marking the cell. If there is already a connection, add another checkmark.

## Enforce Connection

More evidence has come to light that solidifies aspects of the investigation. Choose a connection randomly and add one more checkmark into that cell.

## Decrease Progress

The agents uncovered new evidence that indicates that there is more and they have yet to uncover more. Remove two (2) progress from the chosen focus.

## Roll Twice

You roll twice again on the focus table and use those results instead. If you would roll this again, treat it as New Link.

# Hazards

Your agents will most likely encounter some form of opposition in their case. They will need to ask around to gather clues to find the artefact, but not everybody is happy to see them or interact with them. When hazards represent other people or characters they can also be referred as Non-Player Characters (NPCs) - characters that are not directly under the control of the player, but are also affected directly by the choices of the agents and their actions.

The artefact, or its holder, can also cause trouble in form of obstacles that the agents need to overcome. As such, hazards don't necessarily have to be other people, they can also represent animals or otherworldly beings that somehow create an obstacle or hold information. Fallen trees, landslides or closed doors also fall under this category.

Hazards can be classified in three different types: Minor, Named and Unique.

- **Minor** hazards can be nameless NPCs that act in the background, acting like extras in a movie. Such hazards are fleeting and mostly insignificant in the story. The agents might interact with them, for example asking for directions to a certain place. A master villain might send a nameless army of thugs against you. Minor hazards can also represent minor obstacles and setbacks such as a blocked path or door.

- **Named** hazards support the story. You might encounter them multiple times over the course of the case. They hold more significance in the community and story. As the type suggest they should have a name and often come with their own motivation. Examples might include a particular leader of a street gang with ties to a major antagonist.
- **Unique** hazards are central to a case. They hold major significance in the story. They can be the pivotal opposition or ally and tip the balance of the investigation one way or the other. The primary antagonist could be such a hazard. They need the most attention to any other hazard and if left unchecked may cause catastrophies for the agents. A certain effect of a artefact could also be considered a unique hazard.

## Demeanor

Hazards, most likely NPCs, have an attitude towards the agents. This drives how they interact with them and how they might react. A friendly demeanor does not necessarily mean, that they do whatever the agents want. If a guard is friendly he doesn't just allow the agents in, into whatever he is guarding, but might be politely ask them to leave. Conversely a hostile demeanor doesn't mean, that they immediately seek conflict with the agents but is less receptive to their persuasions.

If you are unsure what the demeanor of the hazard to your characters is, you can roll on the following oracle table.

D6	DEMEANOR
1-2	Hostile
3-5	Indifferent
6	Friendly

## Conversations

NPCs may hold vital information or clues for the investigation. It is thus an opportunity to engage NPCs, if they are willing or compelled to, in a conversation to gather intel. The following table shows possibilities how this interaction might occur.

D6	SPEAKER 1	SPEAKER 2 / LISTENER
1	Strongly Disagrees	Strongly Agrees
2	Disagrees	Agrees
3	Has news	Is Shocked by
4	Needs to know	Doesn't care
5	Agrees	Disagrees
6	Strongly Agrees	Strongly Disagrees

When a NPC is talking to one of your agents, roll on the table for *Speaker 1* and if the NPC is listening or answering to your agent, then roll on the table for *Speaker 2*. You can even simulate listening to a conversation between to NPCs. Just roll twice and check each table once.

## Overcome

Most hazards actively try to work against the purpose of a scene and the actions of the agents. Like aspects, they can be overcome. However, hazards might push back against that. This is represented

by two qualities: Resistance and Fortitude.

- **Resistance** describes the ability to withstand the actions of the agents. This can mean armor or quick reflexes or a keen mind that is seeing through the deceptions of the agents.
- **Fortitude** describes on how tough a hazard is. A wooden door is easier to break than a steel one.

Both resistance and fortitude have a rating starting from zero (0). When overcoming a hazards, the resistance removes a number of dice from the dice pool of the action according to the rating. Whereas the fortitude rating indicates how many times that hazards needs to be overcome, before it is removed from a scene.

**OVERCOMING HAZARDS.** Note that overcoming a hazard does not necessarily mean, that there is a physical or mental conflict. This could also mean, that the agents are using some form of deception or distraction or trying to sneak by. The resistance of a hazard is there to encourage the agents to use their surroundings - as such the corresponding aspects of a scene - to formulate a plan before confronting the hazard. Overcoming a hazard also does not mean, that the hazard is completely destroyed or killed, rather it is removed from a scene or does no longer hold any significance in the scene - and as such opposes the purpose of the scene. Guards can be knocked out or in bonds.

As a guideline, the different kinds of hazards can have the following parameters:

TYPE	RESISTANCE	FORTITUDE
Minor	0-1	1
Named	1-2	1-2
Unique	2-3	2-4

## Notice

The general public has no knowledge about artefacts and their powers and the agency wants to keep it that way. It fears that widespread panic and/or power struggles will occur otherwise. Agents work best in secrecy and without raising any suspicion. As they have no jurisdiction or authority, agents will be left to their own devices when send into the field. It is thus in to their best interest to keep a low profile.

The **Notice** level is a way of measuring the attention the agents are drawing to themselves during a case. The higher it gets, the more the people will mistrust and potentially fight back the agents. Who- or whatever is using the artefact in the first place, will also try to put every possible obstacle against anyone that wants to capture the artefact.

Certain actions will raise the level. You keep track of the current level as a clock on the case sheet. If you would increase the Notice but the clock is already full, you will suffer a consequence every time you gain more Notice.

## Scenes

Scenes are the bread and butter of A.D.A. gameplay. Everything that is happening and the way the agents are interacting with the case is through scenes. These are like scenes in a TV show or movie. They focus on a specific sequence of events and actions. The characters stand in the foreground and everything that is unimportant just exists in the background and is rarely mentioned at all.

## Starting a Scene

When creating a new scene, at least the following questions should be answered:

- **Purpose:** What is the overall goal that the agents want to achieve in this scene.
- **Location:** Where does this take place. A specific room in a building or some place?
- **People:** Who is participating in this scene. It makes sense to have at least one agent participating in a scene, although not all agents on a case have to participate in every scene. This might also include NPCs that act as allies to the agents.
- **Hazards:** What is acting against the purpose of the scene?

Optionally you can also give a scene one or two aspects to set the mood and theme of the scene. *Heavy Rainfall* or *At Night* for example.

## Scene Complication

Before starting the scene, you will check if there are additional complications. As you question people and investigate, the agents will inevitably draw some attention to them. This makes it potentially harder for them to operate.

Roll a six-sided die (d6) and add the current Notice level to the roll. If the result is eight or higher (8+) a complication will be added to the scene. Otherwise the scene will happen as intended.

**EXAMPLE.** A new scene is about to start. After deciding on a purpose, location and the participating people, we will roll a d6. The roll is a 4. Together with the current Notice level of 2, the resulting number is 6. It is lower than 8, so can start as normal with the scene. If we rolled a 6 however, a complication would happen.

A complication will either alter or interrupt the scene. You can choose on your own how this might look like. If the rolled number is even, the scene will be altered, if it is odd it will be interrupted. Or you can roll on the table below to get some inspiration.

- When a scene is **altered**, change (or introduce) aspects that the agent did not expect. This could mean that people are not present in the scene or other people are added that are working against the agents. It could also mean that the situation has changed, such as a bar fight is starting as soon as the agents arrive. But the agents needed to talk to someone that they were meeting at this bar.
- When a scene is **interrupted**, an immediate danger or problem is introduced. The agents can't start the scene until they have resolved this new threat. For example, on their way to the next location, the agents were followed and they now try to push the agents car from the road.

D66	COMPLICATION
11	You are trespassing.
12	You meet someone unexpected.
13	Everyone is distrustful and uncooperative.
14	The weather turns unfavorable.

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## D66 COMPLICATION

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15	The situation drew many spectators.
16	An assumption is revealed to be false.
21	Signs of the artefact complicate things.
22	You interrupt a fight.
23	You find a warning.
24	A trap is sprung.
25	Someone or something is obstructing you.
26	A lead turns into a dead end.
31	Someone is impersonating you and drawing attention.
32	Innocent lives are in immediate danger.
33	A key item or person has gone missing.
34	Someone or something betrays you.
35	You have been implicated in a crime.
36	The artefact is turned against you.
41 - 66	see <i>Scene Complication</i> of the chosen singularity

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## During a Scene

When a scene has been started, the people that are participating in a scene can do actions and interact with each other. There might be effects or events that alter the setup of the scene. Consequences might alter the scene, introduce new obstacles to overcome or characters turning against each other.

However when you feel that the purpose or location of a scene needs to be changed, and it differs to much from your current setup, consider ending the scene. For example if your agent learn that they need to go to the other end of town, a new scene at that location should be started.

As mentioned, the focus of a scene is on your characters and how they interact with the world. You don't have to - unless you want to - roleplay every single thing. If your agents need to get to some place you can just cut to the new location, no need to roleplay them getting in a car and driving there - except if you feel that there might be happening on their way there.

## Ending a Scene

A scene normally ends naturally. The purpose of the scene has been reached - or has fallen so far out of reach it can be achieved within reasonable time. Or anything else in the setup has changed drastically.

When ending a scene, your agent have the opportunity to catch a little breath, gather their thoughts and plan their next steps.

## Challenges

Challenges are a special kind of scene. Such a scene represents a struggle or continuous challenge against a hazard. This could be for example a chase or a debate to convince someone to help your agents. To create a new challenge answer the following questions:



- **Purpose:** Similar to the purpose of a scene, this describes the goal of the challenge.
- **Length:** A clock determining how long this challenge does last, before it has to be resolved.
- **Rating:** How difficult is this challenge going to be, to resolve successfully.

You then proceed and play like you would in a normal scene. For every action you take, fill in one segment of the clock. In addition record if the action was successful or failed. When the clock runs out, resolve the challenge and the scene ends.

## Resolving a challenge

When resolving a challenge, perform a Challenge Test. Its rating equals the number of successful actions subtracted both the failed actions and the Rating of the challenge. You can't use boons, aid or push this roll.

- On **Critical Success:** The goal is reached.
- On **Success:** Same as a critical success.
- On **Partial Success:** The goal is reached but with consequences.
- On **Failure:** The goal is not reached and there are consequences.

**EXAMPLE.** During a challenge there were 4 succeeded and 2 failed actions. The challenge had a rating of 1, so in the end, to resolve the action, the dice pool for the test consists of 4 minus 2 minus 1 dice, so in total 1.

## The Showdown

Once a suspect reaches a rating of eight (8) or higher, the agents feel confident that they have gathered enough evidence and clues to finish this case. Formulate a theory on what might have happened and what might the artefact do. This theory is then put to a challenge, the outcome determines if the agents were right or if they got messed around with by a ingenious mastermind.

To formulate a theory, consider the following questions and answer as many as possible with the gathered clues, suspects and links.

- What does the artefact do, what is its effect? Are there multiple?
- What is the downside when the artefact is used? Are there multiple?
- How does the artefact look like?
- Who or what is in possession of the artefact?
- What is their goal?
- How do they think that goal is achieved with the artefact?
- Are they in control? Or is the artefact controlling them? How?

They then face the suspect in a last showdown and argue or fight their way to the truth. All in the hopes to get the artefact to bring back to the agency.

Create a new challenge with the following parameters:

- **Purpose:** To test the theory of the agents and to detain the artefact for safekeeping

- **Length:** As long as the highest progress on the investigation

Depending on how confident you are on your theory, the rating of the challenge can be either lower or higher. The more questions you could answer the more confident you are. If you are unsure you can roll on the following table:

<b>D6</b>	<b>CONFIDENCE</b>	<b>RATING</b>
1	Unsure	2
2-5	50/50	1
6	Confident	0

No matter the outcome of the resolution of the challenge, the case ends. The agents are either successful in detaining the artefact or the agency has to send out another group to finish the job.

**ENDING.** The story doesn't have to end with the resolution of the challenge. Describe how the agents got hold of the artefact. Or if they are unsuccessful, describe how the suspect got away and why.

## The Debriefing

**WORK IN PROGRESS.** At this point, the scars on participating agents can become permanent. This is also the point where character advancement would happen. At the moment these rules are not fleshed out.

# Filing Cabinet

## Sites

**WORK IN PROGRESS.** For now there is only a singular site to choose from. This section will in the end contain more sites but for now this is mostly considered a proof-of-concept.

## Small Town

### Aspect

#### D6 ASPECT

---

1	secluded and in the middle of nowhere
2	eventful history
3	booming with tourism
4	alternative way of live
5	spa and resort
6	peaceful and quaint

---

### Locations

#### D33 OPTION 1

#### OPTION 2

---

11	Post Office	Doctor's Office
12	School	Library
13	Diner	Bar / Pub
21	Church	Theater / Cinema
22	Grocery Shop	Antiques Shop
23	Gas Station	Police Station
31	Town Center	Town Hall
32	Landmark / Tourist Feature	Bed & Breakfast
33	Farm	Old Estate

---

## Hazard

<b>D33</b>	<b>OPTION 1</b>	<b>OPTION 2</b>
11	Sherrif	Mayor
12	Pastor / Priest	Teacher
13	Old Man / Woman	Shopkeeper
21	Doctor	Waiter / Waitress
22	Innkeeper	Librarian
23	Kids / Children	Tourist
31	Farmer	Barber
32	Musician	Postman
33	Merchant	Baker

# Singularities

**WORK IN PROGRESS.** For now there is only a singular singularity (how fitting) to choose from. This section will in the end contain more singularities but for now this is mostly considered a proof-of-concept.

## Temporal

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Occurrences classified as Temporal Singularities may include: Anachronistic objects or people, experience of past or future events (such as precognition or visions), reoccurrence of same events (such as loops), missing recollection of events (such as blackouts), accelerated or decelerated passing of time (either in an area or on individual objects or people), time travel.

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### Inciting Incident

#### D6 INCIDENT

---

- 1 A stranger appeared, claiming to be from the future
  - 2 People act and think like it is 50 years ago
  - 3 Young people die of old age
  - 4 People have no recollection of what happened yesterday
  - 5 People have a strange sense of deja-vu all the time
  - 6 Animal attacks that should not exist anymore
- 

### Scene Complication

#### D66 COMPLICATION

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- 11 - 36 see general Scene Complication (p.30)
  - 41 You arrive late.
  - 42 People have trouble remembering things.
  - 43 Unfamiliar people already know you.
  - 44 Time is passing quickly.
  - 45 Everything appears older than it should be.
  - 46 People repeat themselves.
  - 51 Everyone speaks very slowly.
  - 52 Day turns to night and vice versa.
  - 53 You arrive earlier than you left.
  - 54 You receive a warning in your own handwriting/voice.
  - 55 All clocks suddenly skip forward several minutes.
  - 56 Everything turns backwards for several minutes before returning to normal.
  - 61 You get accused of things not yet happened.
  - 62 A past event happens again.
  - 63 You see someone or something that is long dead.
  - 64 Everything and everyone stops moving around you for several minutes.
  - 65 You are sent backwards in time but return within an hour.
  - 66 A dream you had the night before, comes to pass.
-

## Clues

### ACTION

D66		D66		D66	
11	advance	31	flow	51	precise
12	appear	32	individual	52	present
13	begin	33	detail	53	process
14	change	34	limit	54	repeat
15	classic	35	linear	55	reverse
16	constant	36	match	56	start
21	continue	41	motion	61	simultaneous
22	cyclical	42	renew	62	shorten
23	different	43	order	63	slow
24	early	44	past	64	stop
25	end	45	archive	65	vanish
26	fast	46	plan	66	watch

### DESCRIPTOR

D66		D66		D66	
11	age	31	frequency	51	power
12	ancient	32	future	52	quantity
13	period	33	history	53	science
14	behavior	34	instance	54	sensation
15	calendar	35	interval	55	speed
16	clock	36	journal	56	sequence
21	illusion	41	last	61	sudden
22	dimension	42	modern	62	theory
23	duration	43	moment	63	timing
24	entropy	44	myth	64	travel
25	experience	45	observer	65	velocity
26	first	46	paradox	66	zone





# Case Report

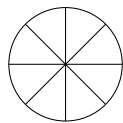
1. Case Number

a. Site

b. Singularity

2. Inciting Incident

3. Investigation



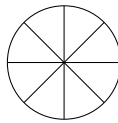
Notice

a. Instructions

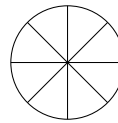
1. Determine Focus
2. Roll on Focus Table
3. Create Advantage
4. Increase Progress of Focus

d. Suspects

b. Progress



Clues



Suspects

c. Clues	d. Suspects					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
11 / 12						
13 / 14						
15 / 16						
21 / 22						
23 / 24						
25 / 26						
31 / 32						
33 / 34						
35 / 36						
41 / 42						
43 / 44						
45 / 46						
51 / 52						
53 / 54						
55 / 56						
61 / 62						
63 / 64						
65 / 66						

# Case Report

## 4. Main Locations

1	2	3
---	---	---

## 5. Other Locations

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

## 6. Hazards

	a. Demeanor	b. Name	c. Resistance	d. Fortitude
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				

## 7. Notes

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