

r/nightattheopera Alphabet Contest

[/r/nightattheopera](#) is an open table RPG community that utilizes a living world where Delta Green Agents and Operations take place in the same linear (or non-linear, non-Euclidean) timeline. This allows Agents to fully experience the horrors the Delta Green RPG has to offer. For more info, check out the intro page [here](#) or come chat with us in Discord [here](#).

What is the Alphabet Contest? It's simple. You just have to pick a word starting with a letter and write a scenario about that. The trick is you kind of sort of don't really choose your own letter.

Everybody who signs up picks a unique number from 1 to 26. When the contest begins, each number is randomly assigned a letter of the English alphabet. You pick a word (*one* word) starting with that letter, and then off you go to write a scenario about it.

Contest Rules:

- All submissions are pseudo-anonymous. Entrants are discouraged from openly discussing their entries - *you* are the contestant, not your friend group - but if you must do so you may discuss them in the contest channel only.
- Entrants may playtest their scenarios, but must not do so using the title they plan to submit under. Ensure your playtests are marked "PLAYTEST" in the thread title so judges know to avoid them. *Obviously you can safely playtest an entry at your IRL table*
- Judges will refrain from reading the contest channel until results are finalized in order to preserve submission anonymity. You may not submit an entry that a judge has playtested.
- Entries must be submitted as a Google Doc. Once submitted, no changes will be accepted
- There is no word count limit or restriction
- It is expected that scenarios submitted will be *new* scenarios, but there is no way to enforce this. You are on your honor.

Judging: Each submission will be judged by a three-person panel. Submissions will be awarded up to 20 points, on totally subjective criteria at the discretion of each judge. Each judge will score the entries independently, without consultation with other judges - the idea is to have three unique perspectives, not the same perspective three times. In addition, bonus points will be awarded as follows:

Word choice: 8pts

How clever and unique the word you choose is. If for instance you choose "Dreamlands" for D or "Cowboys" for C you get zero points. **Remember it has to be a word, not a phrase.**

Word use: 5pts

How you use the word as a theme or element. "Xylophone" might be a good pick for X, but unless xylophones are key to your scenario in a way that's interesting and doesn't feel forced, you probably won't score well here.

All together this gives a maximum possible score of **33 points**.

Yes this means it's better to pick a clever word and use it poorly than to pick a boring word and use it well. It's also better to drop the ball on both and write a really good scenario than to pick a good word and use it well to write a dull scenario, so that should tell you something about what this contest is really about.

Results: Scores from each judge will be added together, giving each entry a rating out of 99. In addition, a poll open to discord users will nominate one Community Choice winner.

When the results are posted, there will be a space for comments on your entry from the judges. Don't expect super detailed feedback, remember the judges have to read and consider every entry.

Prizes are still being considered. It might just be bragging rights. We'll see.

Direction for Judges

The only scoring metric is on the 13 bonus points - 8 for word choice, 5 for word use. Other than that you're free to assign points however you choose by whatever criteria you wish.

Work out your scores independently. Once you've locked them in, there will be a shared doc for judges' comments - also at this point you'll know who the authors are. Sign your comments, play off one another, talk about why you liked/disliked an entry and assigned a score the way you did.

That's great, when do I start?

Registration begins: **right now!**

Send a PM to **Will the Great#3938** on Discord and pick a number. Let me know what name you want to appear or I'll just use whatever your Discord username is.

Letters assigned: **Saturday, August 17th**

Letter assignments will be posted in the contest channel.

Submission deadline: **Sunday, September 8th, 11:59 PM EST**

Submit your entry by PM to **Will the Great#3938** on Discord. Put your word at the top of the document in big bold letters. If it's not, it doesn't count. It also doesn't count if it's not a Google Docs link.

Results announced: **Hopefully before October (however long it takes to judge)**

I want to be a judge!

Great! Let me know by PM and I'll consider you. I only need ~~three~~ one more so don't be upset if I choose someone else.

The Roster

1. - Lighthouse
2. -
3. -
4. - Writersblockade
5. - mellonbread
6. - Agent Fintcher
7. - Joe
8. -
9. -
10. - Algatress, Destroyer of Threads
11. - acebuckeye13
12. - agentobtuse
13. - zomner
14. - threethreethree
15. - DragonDust101
16. - kingsrow
17. -
18. - Michael Fox
19. -
20. - Tetrarch
21. - Elendil004
22. - Lithobraker
23. - ChiefMcClane
24. -
25. - SeaTurtles
26. - MeatofMeat

Judge BurningHeron

Judge karlnp

Judge magnificentophat