

(This document uses screencaps from specific writers' posts, with their names listed in parentheses after the screencap. If any of them are concerned about their example, let me know on Discord, or in MMRPG DMs.)

Opening

With how long *The Chaos Zone* has been going, particular trends have become prominent in terms of how the story is conveyed. This document is meant to help those new to *Chaos Zone* understand just what's going on in a more basic sense. Note that not all of this formatting *has* to apply to you. This is just an explanation of how others have handled it so you can understand what they specifically mean when they format their posts a certain way:

Location

Generally, a *Chaos Zone* post will start by stating the location the writing that follows takes place in.

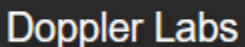
Many users convey this by simply writing the location's name (or the closest it has to one) at the beginning. This can be conveyed with a multi-line block...



The inventory

(prototedd)

...with a single line of normal text...



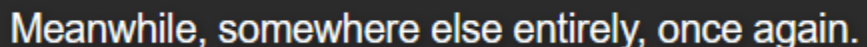
Doppler Labs

(QuintAnother)

...and likely many more ways that I forgot.

A location may also be conveyed with some form of the phrase "Meanwhile..."; in this case, context clues are usually the key to finding out where the location is.

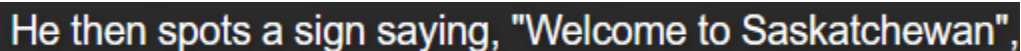
For example, the below post starts with a "Meanwhile" phrase...



Meanwhile, somewhere else entirely, once again.

(TheHighTower)

...and later elaborates by having a character see a sign saying what the location is.



He then spots a sign saying, "Welcome to Saskatchewan",

(TheHighTower)

On occasion, a writer may *not* state the location through these means. In such a case, the post may take place in the same location as the post (or one part of the post) that preceded it, even if that post was written by another person.

Posted on May 23rd, 2023 at 2:28pm

Lucemon: Alright, time to finish this annoyance.

Lucemon uses Divine Feet (A powerful laser) at the robot

Quake Woman: That attack...

Coco Bandicoot: I don't if it's powerful enough to beat that robot with that power.

Lavender Town Ghost: Holy...moly

Cyber-Lucina: I think...it may stop him...I think?

Posted on May 23rd, 2023 at 2:49pm (Edited on 2023/05/23 at 3:01pm)

(Character Battle - Vs. Windaz) 🎵 SilvaGunner: King for Another Day - "merciful" 🎵

Deciding consistency is her best option, Windaz assists with another Lightning Tempest !

(ch4s3man and Brash Buster; these are both in reply to a post by RotomSlashBlast that took place in Lavender Town, with these posts - and these characters - being in the same location) Some locations may also be specified further. Let's say someone's in "Gentle Countryside". If they're in a house, they might say "Gentle Countryside - House" or "Gentle Countryside (House)". They might add a date or time of day in a similar manner, such as "Gentle Countryside (Evening)".

Because so many worlds exist in *Chaos Zone* besides just the planet Earth ([this document](#) lists some such locations), the part of the setting it takes place in may be listed as well, such as "Gentle Countryside (Dimension 3)".

Why so many locations?

The Chaos Zone is a big project, and not everyone is in the same place all the time. Examples like what are listed in "Location" help clarify what's happening to a specific group of characters.

Private Plotlines

As Rule 4 of the thread says, some people may make their plots private. This means they want to write the events without other people intervening (or, if other people *do* get involved, it's either later or part of a sort of smaller collaborative writing project).

Speaking from experience, I've only ever seen one way of directly marking a plotline as private, and that's by writing |P| in the location marker for a plotline.

Restricted Area - April 18th, 2023 (Afternoon) |P|

(Brash

Buster)

There isn't any rule saying it *has* to be written as |P|, though. As long as some clear sign is given that it's a private plotline, that's good. In fact, I made this document in part because of the use of |P|; I can understand if not everyone realizes what it means, and since it's become something of a trend, I wanted to help people understand what it meant in the cases it's already being used so they don't enter a private plotline by accident (and if you do, no worries, accidents happen).

Restricted Plotlines

A less common and more recent idea, but something I want to clarify nonetheless: sometimes, people may decide not to make their plots completely private, but *do* want to restrict who gets involved and why.

In such a situation, I've seen the one method of getting this across to be similar to private plotline; a notation is placed alongside the plotline (in this case, |R|).

???

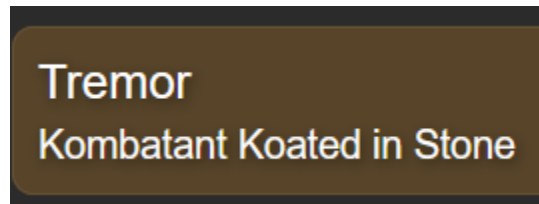
|R|** Winter Horns - An Unexpected Beast King (Stairs)

(Beta Shadow)

Character Introductions

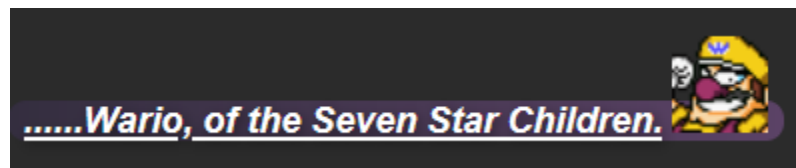
This is mostly here to clarify something that many people use multi-line block formatting for besides locations, to explain what it means when it's used:

Many users provide some sort of fancy introduction when using a character for the first time in a thread (even if they were used in a Part before the current Part), for the first time in a while, or even just the first time since a new user has joined the Roleplay.



(TheHighTower)

Sometimes this is represented with multi-line blocks with the character's name, or a similar way of making their intro "stand out". Sometimes, a character may be introduced just from dialogue.



(RedBomber)

Extra Post Notes

There are many additional things that can be placed in a post, for varying reasons:

- A writer may list the attacks used by the characters, to help paint a more vivid image of what they're using.
- A writer may include a small piece of writing out of character to quickly inform fellow writers of something. Such sections of writing are usually preceded by the shorthand "OOC:".
- A writer may put footnotes (symbols such as * that reappear at the bottom of the writing) to explain things in a post without breaking the pacing of the writing. If a user wants to put *multiple* footnotes, they might either use the traditional English symbols for footnotes (in order: *, †, ‡, §, ||, ¶), or simply add an asterisk for each footnote (footnote 1 is *, footnote 2 is **, footnote 3 is ***, etc.). A fair warning: While I (Brash Buster) personally use the traditional symbols, I do not know how many programs can display || (the program I use to write, Notepad++, does not show it by default with my settings), and so I use | instead.

Multiple Posts

You may notice some users have more than one post by themselves linked together. There are site-wide rules that limit how these should be used, but if they're used in Chaos Zone and nobody addresses it, it's probably because either enough time has passed since the last post for it to be okay (which is a long time), or it's all part of a single batch of new writing they wanted to make, but didn't fit in the 5000 character limit of a single post.

Conclusion

I cannot stress enough that this document is not me (or anyone else, for that matter) saying you *have* to write your *Chaos Zone* posts a certain way. It's just something to help you if you don't understand all the fancy ways text is used, especially if you either lack past experience with Roleplays, or have mostly experienced Roleplay in a thread where characters stick together (such as *Take the Crown*).