

Status



A social approach to characterization

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Status

The means and level of interaction a person has with the world around them in order to meet their needs.

- Goals and tactics
- Body language/interactions
- Nothing to do with socioeconomic status (upper, lower, or middle class) or relationship status (single, married, divorced, it's complicated).

Low Status

The **average low status** person (3-4) will sit or stand with closed off body positions. They avoid eye contact. They avoid confrontation. They avoid the center of attention. They are easy to approach and may appear to have low self-esteem. Often they achieve their goals by being sneaky or deceptive. A low status person may convince you to do something by letting you think it was your idea. Most will opt to work alone as opposed to in a group. If in a group, they will rarely be in positions of leadership, opting for lower positions, and will rarely seek credit for their accomplishments.

High Status

The **average high status** person (6-8) will sit or stand with open body positions and will attempt to claim the space around them. They do not necessarily seek out confrontation, but if a confrontation arises, they will not shy away. The higher the status, the less likely they are to back down. They may appear confident and of high self-esteem. They often enjoy the spotlight. They will achieve their goals through force and may appear aggressive in the pursuit of their goals. They seek out positions of leadership. They thrive on the praise of others, though they do not require it to function.

Example- Goal: Get to class. Find a seat.

High Status- They walk through the hallway, head held high, direct path. They make eye contact with people. They do not yield to another person. They assume others will get out of the way. Upon arriving in class, they choose their seat, often in the middle or the front of the room, and take up as much space as possible.

Low Status- They walk with their head down and take the path of least resistance, going around other people or out of their way, choosing an alternate route if necessary. They avoid eye contact with most people. They always yield to people of higher status. Upon arriving in class, they take whatever open seat they can find, often at the back and far from the door. They keep their things very close to them.

**Status is about how one goes about
achieving their goals.**

**NO STATUS IS BETTER THAN
ANOTHER!!!**

When we analyze a character's status, we look at their actions. We must ask ourselves: **What does my character want? How does he/she get it?**

Once we know that, we rate their status on a scale of 1-10, 1 being the lowest status, 10 being the highest.



Extremes- Low

A person with a status of **1** is an **extremely low status**. This is typically reserved for people with mental disability. An extremely low status person will have very little, if any, interaction with the world around them. They are **incapable** of meaningful interaction.



F HD

Extremes- High

A person with a status of **10** is an **extremely high status person**. This is reserved for people of a psychopathic nature. They do not have a sense of right/wrong. They do not experience emotion in any meaningful way and will appear to be in complete control of their faculties. They are not afraid of confrontation. Often manipulative, in some cases appearing low status.





F HD



Status

Do not think of status in terms of good/bad, nice/mean. There are good and bad people all across the status spectrum. Nice/mean are a matter of perception.

Status is dynamic not static

- **Environment**
- **Company**
- **Expectations/Outcomes**
- **Goal/Tactics**

Status is the way we go about achieving our goals. If your status will not accomplish that, you may need to raise or lower it.

Status Line- Perform the line once as high status and again as low status. Play with different numbers. Change status part way through.

I am not a schemer. I show the schemer how pathetic their attempts to control things really are.

You know how to whistle, don't you, Steve? You just put your lips together and blow.

Badges? We ain't got no badges! We don't need no badges! I don't have to show you any stinking badges!

You're going to get back on that horse, and I'm going to be right behind you, holding on tight, and away we're gonna go, go, go!

Status Scene- Perform the scene once as high status and again as low status. Mix up high vs low. Try it as 5s.

Scene 1

A: I need a raise.

B: I can't do that.

Scene 2

A: Are you finished with that?

B: Why do you care?

Scene 3

A: I have good news and bad news.

B: Alright. I'll take the good news.