

Writing Activity: What Makes a Good Detective

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Directions: Create a profile of your own fictional sleuth, drawing from the detectives you have read about in this book or from other sources such as movies, television, or books. List the detective's name and source in the first box of each row. An example is done for you.

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Detective	Special Traits, Skills, or Interests	Why These Traits Are Important
Colombo, from the TV series	He appears confused and bumbling but is actually very smart. His questions seem innocent, but they always have a point.	The villain is usually misled into thinking the detective is stupid. Colombo gains important information without the villain being aware of it.

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Use the information from the organizer to help decide what characteristics you want your own fictional detective to have.

Remember, a strong profile

- describes a person's interests, traits, skills, mannerisms, personality, etc.
- is short; think of a sketch rather than a full-color portrait
- focuses on character traits that make the person unique