

The 12 Key Pillars of Novel Construction

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Inspection Checklist #10

Voice Unique for Each Character

	QUESTION	YOUR ANSWER
QUESTION #1	Have you gone through and thoroughly developed all your characters and created a speaking style for them?	
QUESTION #2	Have you gone through and thoroughly developed all your POV characters and created a narrative voice style?	
QUESTION #3	Have you checked to make sure each character's speaking voice and POV narrative voice sound similar in all your scenes?	
QUESTION #4	Are the voices for your POV characters correct for their age, and is this reflected in the narrative?	
QUESTION #5	Think about each character's "word whiskers" or special phrases. Have you pulled those into the POV narrative?	
QUESTION #6	Does the narrative of each scene reflect and reveal the mind-set or attitude of the POV character in that scene?	

	QUESTION	YOUR ANSWER
QUESTION #7	Does the narrative of each scene reflect and reveal the mood and emotion of the POV character in that scene?	
QUESTION #8	Is your POV narrative voice void of vocabulary that your character would not use in his thoughts or speech?	
QUESTION #9	For your POV characters: How is their speech shaped by where they grew up, their education, ethnicity, and status?	
QUESTION #10	If you are writing in first person POV, what are some ways you have made this a unique and compelling voice?	
QUESTION #11	Have you checked through all your scenes to make sure there is no author intrusion—narrating “out of POV”?	
QUESTION #12	If you are writing in omniscient voice, have you developed a unique narrative voice that feels like a character in your book?	

Write a one-paragraph summary of your novel highlighting Voice Unique for Each Character: