

## > TIP SHEET

### SUCCESSFUL ROLE PLAYING

- Make sure you understand the nature of your opening question and the context in which it is being asked. This context provides you with your underlying motivation as a player or object.
- Agree on the context. When each scenario has been fleshed out (usually by stage six) the context of the scenario, and thus the impetus for your concern as a player, will become increasingly clear. As a player you will be 'worried', 'afraid', 'cynical', 'curious' — the context in which your character exists. You can be any or all of these depending on the scenario you are working within and, more importantly, the drivers impacting on or contributing to the overall framework of that scenario.
- Choose a role, become a character or assume the characteristics of an object to better understand what motivates, inspires or drives that character or object to do what it does, or to become what it wants to become.
  - Role playing a person requires you to fully immerse yourself in his or her world, or rather the world as he or she sees it.
  - Role playing an object requires you to fully immerse yourself in its world, or rather the world as it occupies it.
- Remember it is important to role play without prejudice, preconception or reservation — your task is to fully immerse yourself in a world you may have no prior understanding of, or sympathy with, so that you can fully understand the consequence of another's actions.
- Make sure you fully mine, embrace, and articulate the personality of your character. To do this it is important that you look at a person's motivations as well as his or her actions.
- Use all the desk research you have accrued to give your character a voice or a way of looking at the world that is colored by his or her point of view — and make this as true to his or her previous actions and motivations as you can.
- Enact the scene. Your character requires a drama as well as a motivation, one gives impetus to the other. As you map out each scenario, and the drivers and conflicts it contains, questions will arise as to how these changes affect the key players. This is where role playing comes in, and where stakeholders determine the scene of their drama.
  - Your scene can be hypothetical: an imagined round table discussion between key players who have agreed to come together to thrash out their differences, a chance encounter in a public space, even a summit or trade fair in which all parties are likely to meet.
  - Your scene can be real: a documented meeting that has taken place but as new evidence comes to light a meeting is now held that may have a totally different outcome.
- Ensure that the scene you choose is played out in real time and with real commitment to each player staying in character and fighting his or her corner.
- Keep a careful record of any comments, points, decisions, actions, insights or 'flashes of inspiration' that occur at all stages of the role playing exercise.
- Discuss and analyze these comments, etc., at the end of the session and add them to the overall thrust of the scenario under review.