

THE NEW SUPERHEROES

Science fiction writers are always searching for good ideas for plots that will capture the interest of their readers. A common premise during one particular era of science fiction movies was that radiation somehow altered biological processes, transforming normal human being into superhumans--some good and some evil. One such example is the Incredible Hulk, who through a laboratory accident, developed superhuman strength that manifested itself when he was angry.

Your task in this exercise is to create your own team of three superheroes by pretending that it is possible to magnify the abilities governed in selective sites in the human brain.

Identify the area of the brain that would have to be altered to accomplish the special skill of the superhero. Then create a simple story line in which the superheroes' special abilities could be useful.

In this exercise, you confront a rather novel discrepancy in thinking about brain function. You take a familiar concept--superhero figures--and combine the possibilities of science fiction with brain function concepts to develop new heroes. You might find it helpful to begin by listing the component parts of the brain and their functions. Then give your imagination free rein as you explore the kinds of alterations that might fit the demands of a superhero's life. What challenges would allow you superheroes to demonstrate their exceptional abilities? Don't limit your possibilities or get bogged down by old ways of thinking.

Ex. VIGILBOY: This superhero could stay awake for extended periods of time. The augmented brain structure is the reticular formation. Vigilboy would excel at surveillance sessions.

Name of Superhero 1 \_\_\_\_\_

What super-ability does this superhero possess? \_\_\_\_\_

What brain structure is augmented? \_\_\_\_\_

What simple plot would encourage this superhero to come to the rescue? \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Superhero 2 \_\_\_\_\_

What Super-ability does this super hero possess? \_\_\_\_\_

What brain structure is augmented? \_\_\_\_\_

What simple plot would encourage this superhero to come to the rescue? \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Superhero 3 \_\_\_\_\_

What super-ability does this super hero possess? \_\_\_\_\_

What brain structure is augmented? \_\_\_\_\_

What simple plot would encourage this superhero to come to the rescue? \_\_\_\_\_