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## Short Communication

# Aptitude Test to write on Science Fiction

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Abstract

**This manuscript has as purpose to present a test to measure the aptitude of a person to write about science fiction or to create original stories in this field. The aptitude test consists of 20 questions. The first 9 questions are directed to know about your reading experiences and evaluation in the field of science fiction. The following 11 questions are a statement of your thoughts, attitudes, and disposition to write science fiction stories.**

**Keywords:** Aptitude test, science fiction, literacy.

## INTRODUCTION

It may be that many people think that science fiction is just fantasy and a kind of trivial entertainment. But according to my recent experience, and that of many authors, science fiction is much more than that. Science fiction has awakened all my senses, it has me raised to unknown dimensions, and it has me touched my deepest essence of my being. All these sensations and emotions have led me to reflect and to think in more critical ways about past events and more creative ways about future events. There is no doubt that science fiction is the seed that germinates to produce big thinking skills ending with great ideas for the benefit of mankind.

Great inventions like electricity, printing press, radio, television, Internet and smart phones, to name a few, were obviously born from some ideas that perhaps at first seemed impossible. But the truth is that there are and people have learned to live with them enjoying their benefits. People also know that many elements and phenomena of novels, films, and television series of science fiction have become reality. That is, men and women with a great imagination and vision of the future have been able to hit and realize their thoughts. So, going through these experiences is dream process and we get to enjoy the results.

It has been observed that science fiction has been closely linked to the development of technology, especially in the last four decades. This is how science fiction is immersed directly in what is now known as artificial intelligence. Coppola D. states that artificial intelligence as “a subfield of electrical engineering and

computer science, is a discipline that strives to understand human intelligence, and to produce machines that can think independently and interact naturally with humans.” At first, science fiction is part of linguistic intelligence and spatial intelligence to explore the universe. At this point, the science fiction is already a fascinating medium of fun for everyone. Later, when science fiction is specified, it runs quickly to become software, hardware, and other technological devices.

The world of science fiction as literacy imaginations forces authors to transport their minds to create other worlds; and they travel in time, come to life and solve problems. Because the imagination has no limits, writers can get to where they want, so the first step to show our thinking skills is writing them. Experts in this area have created methods, models, rules, structures, and tips that can help a lot with students or any people who want to write science fiction stories. According to McCarty W.J., on the science fiction method, in order to write about “consists of looking at the world around us in all its parts, taking out some of those parts, replacing them with invented ones, putting the model back together, and writing a story to show how it works.”

Talking always about how to write on science fiction, McCarty W.J., proposes some rules. First, he says, that if there is a “known natural law,” the writing “must be consistent with that law.” Second, McCarty says, that “the author may fudge within the constraints of well-established laws” the writing ideas if the law is not very well defined. Third, if “no natural law exists,” the author

can use his/her own “imagination provided the extrapolation does not contradict other well-established laws.” Lastly, “if the plot requires that the preceding rules be bent or broken, the author may do so,” but he or she must give an explanation of that, perhaps, saying that the law is “incomplete or wrong.”

When the writers have taken the decision of writing on science fiction, John Westermann exposes ten elements, which might help to obtain a good story. They are:

1. Write with a particular audience in mind.
2. Study the novels of your favorite writers in the category.
3. Before you start writing, think the story through.
4. Once you've started writing, stop from time to time and mentally review what you've written and where the story goes.
5. In the best stories, the hero has a goal.
6. Plot, simply, is complications.
7. The hero must be likable.
8. Motivation is critical.
9. The characters must be interesting.
10. If the story isn't moving, you are going to lose your readers (qtd. in McCarty).

Czerneda J.E., in her article titled “Science Fiction & Scientific Literacy,” developed a quiz to know if one is a scientifically literate person. This tool gave me the idea to develop my own instrument in order to measure if a person has aptitude to write on science fiction.

### Tool description

This test consists of 20 questions. The first 9 questions are directed to know about your reading experiences and evaluation in the field of science fiction. The following 11 questions are a statement of your thoughts and disposition to write science fiction stories.

### Instructions

Answer each question by checking only one of the alternatives (Most of the time, Sometimes, Rarely, or Never). To interpret the test results, see the table is at the end of the questions.

### Questions

1. Have you enjoyed reading science fiction literature?  
Most of the time Sometimes Rarely Never
2. Have you made any critical analysis of the science fiction novels or short stories?  
Most of the time Sometimes Rarely Never
3. Have you identified the writing style of the author?

Most of the time Sometimes Rarely Never

4. Have you done your own extrapolation of the events of the novel or short story?

Most of the time Sometimes Rarely Never

5. Have you identified preferences of the author about setting–time and space?

Most of the time Sometimes Rarely Never

6. Has it been easy for you to identify foreshadowing in the events reported by the author?

Most of the time Sometimes Rarely Never

7. Have you assessed the points of view of the author of the novels or short stories?

Most of the time Sometimes Rarely Never

8. Have you made comparisons between the events of the novels or short stories?

Most of the time Sometimes Rarely Never

9. Have you made comparisons between the characters of the novels or short stories?

Most of the time Sometimes Rarely Never

10. Have you thought you may be able to create a science fiction story?

Most of the time Sometimes Rarely Never

11. Have you thought you may be able to be original writing a science fiction story?

Most of the time Sometimes Rarely Never

12. Have you imagined what might be the future for humanity?

Most of the time Sometimes Rarely Never

13. Have you imagined life beyond the planet Earth?

Most of the time Sometimes Rarely Never

14. Have you considered that other technological advances might exist that have never before been imagined?

Most of the time Sometimes Rarely Never

15. Have you thought about the existence of a problem and how it can be solved?

Most of the time Sometimes Rarely Never

16. Have you thought your own story might be attractive to many people?

Most of the time Sometimes Rarely Never

17. Have you felt you find it easy to generate ideas?

Most of the time Sometimes Rarely Never

18. Have you felt the desire to make written outlines of your own ideas?

Most of the time Sometimes Rarely Never

19. Have you felt you find it easy to complete a science fiction story?

Most of the time Sometimes Rarely Never

20. Have you thought about the benefits of being a recognized author of science fiction?

Most of the time Sometimes Rarely Never

### INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

Instructions: Sum up separately each of the three marked

response alternatives. Compare the obtained sums with the approaches of this table.

<b>Results</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
1. Most of your answers are with "Most of the time"	You have a strong aptitude to write science fiction stories
2. Most of your answers are with "Sometimes"	You have adequate aptitude to write science fiction stories
3. Most of your answers are with "Rarely"	You have a moderate aptitude to write science fiction stories
4. Most of your answers are with "Never"	You have a poor aptitude to write science fiction stories

**Note:** To use this aptitude test should ask permission to the author.

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