

LEVEL UP YOUR DRAFT – THE ALTERCATION CHALLENGE

KS4 Creative Writing · AO5 & AO6 · In *Control Alter Delete*, the game **Altercation** reshapes itself around whoever is playing. Your draft can do the same. **Roll two dice.** The first is your row, the second your column. Find the square, then act on it to check, up-level and develop your writing. Roll as many times as you like — every roll is a patch to your draft.

● **AO5** craft & effect ● **AO6** accuracy

	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Start in the middle of the action — cut any run-up. ● AO5	Shift from a long, flowing sentence into a short, blunt one. ● AO5	Withhold one fact — make the reader wait for it. ● AO5	Turn a 'telling' line into a 'showing' one. ● AO5	Add a detail that hints at theme, not just decoration. ● AO5	Proofread for full stops and capitals. ● AO6
2	Check every apostrophe — possession vs omission. ● AO6	Zoom from a wide view to one small detail. ● AO5	Replace an abstract word ('sad', 'scary') with an image. ● AO5	Break the paragraph for a single line that lands. ● AO5	Let dialogue reveal what a character is hiding. ● AO5	Check paragraphing — new speaker, time, place or topic. ● AO6
3	Use a deliberate one-word sentence. For weight. ● AO5	Punctuate a line of dialogue correctly. ● AO6	Slow a key moment down — stretch one second across three sentences. ● AO5	End the paragraph on a cliff-edge that pulls the reader on. ● AO5	Up-level one flat word to a sharper one, chosen for effect. ● AO5	Plant an ordinary object that quietly carries meaning. ● AO5
4	Make the setting mirror a mood — without naming the mood. ● AO5	Add a metaphor that fits this story's world. ● AO5	Speed up a tense moment with short clauses. ● AO5	Swap a dull verb for a stronger, precise one. ● AO5	Foreshadow the ending somewhere in your opening. ● AO5	Read it aloud — does every sentence end cleanly? ● AO6
5	Shift the reader's sympathy toward another character. ● AO5	Use the rule of three for rhythm. ● AO5	Check tense consistency all the way through. ● AO6	Join two linked ideas with a semicolon — check it's right. ● AO6	Echo an earlier image so it becomes a motif. ● AO5	Cut your longest sentence in half for impact. ● AO5
6	Reorder your opening to raise a question fast. ● AO5	End on an image, not an explanation. ● AO5	Pull close inside a thought, then step back out. ● AO5	Repeat a short phrase for emphasis. ● AO5	Give a character an action that shows their feeling. ● AO5	Proofread for full stops, capitals and homophones. ● AO6

Pairs with the **Control Alter Delete** KS4 lesson

Use it to up-level the creative task, or as a standalone starter. Free resources and author visits at klkettle.com

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