A Speech on Techniques and Proper Practices of Creating Comic Strips
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Hello everyone,
I love comic strips. It's my great honor and pleasure to share with you techniques and proper practices of creating comic strips. Hopefully, this will give you some ideas on how to create your own comic strips one day or help you understand comics better.

Before you draw anything on paper, you need a script, which should contain the basic idea and the plot of your story. You don't need every little detail but you should know where your story is going. Then, you can decide on your format based on the length of the story. This could range from 3-4 panels in 1 row, like the comic *Garfield*, or 6-8 panels in 2 rows or even 3. When you're working on your strips, plan your panels with a pencil. Note down roughly where each object or conversation bubble should go. In the process, be mindful about the balance of text and image, which should be evenly spaced out. Don't use too many words in your comic strips. Keep the number of words in a panel below 30.

The next step is to design our characters, and we shouldn't be sloppy in our creation of the characters as they are the focus of comics. A lively character can make readers feel closely connected to them. To do that, we should give them hopes and dreams, and think about their lives and goals. Also, give them flaws because a perfect character is simply too odd and hard to identify with, and such a character wouldn't feel real. For example, they can be greedy, rude, too talkative, selfish, or not as smart as you would expect. Give your characters backgrounds and hobbies, which would make them seem alive and readers could relate to them.

Then, it's down to the actual drawing. Based on your earlier sketch and planning, you should have a clear idea which panels will need to be larger or smaller. Draw the frames and sketch the characters. Be sure to make room for speech bubbles, and try to balance them so that the panels don't look too full or empty. A speech bubble's shape can sometimes indicate a particular voice. For example, a bubble with sharp edges could mean that your character is screaming. After drawing the characters and speech bubbles, sketch in some backgrounds or objects you want. Some strips have very detailed backgrounds

while some only include the basic objects the characters interact with.
Now you should have a rough draft of everything in your strips, but it probably looks like a fussy mess. To make it look more professional, you should go over your sketch lines with something dark and permanent, so they look clean and neat. You can use line width variation and other artistic tricks to make it look better. When that's done, you can erase the sketch.

Your comic strips are basically done! Unless you want to add more colours, then it's only a matter of publishing your work. You can publish it in print or you can do what I recommend for beginners, publishing online. You can create a website or use a blog. It doesn't matter which way you choose. Just show your work out there and get some feedback. It'll be very interesting to know what other people think about your work.

That's all. Have a great day! Thank you.