

Link Every Moment Together

Careful setup that establishes intricate connections between every narrative element in a story can produce great results. When everything is connected, a single excellent moment can enhance every aspect of the story at once.

Despite how long, expansive, and complex its plot becomes, Steins; Gate remains remarkably consistent at ensuring every element, however minor, plays a meaningful role in the story. Every plot twist and emotionally evocative scene in *Steins; Gate* is reinforced by hours of carefully constructed foundation, allowing these moments to be realized to their fullest potential.

Blend Eccentricity and Complexity

While characters should generally be written to feel realistic and well-rounded, that's no reason to stifle creativity. Larger-than-life characters, when given proper depth and development, can come off just as real to players all while being more unique and memorable.

Steins; Gate does not let the fact that it's a psychological thriller prevent it from writing exceptionally outlandish characters, but neither does it allow their eccentricity to hinder complexity. By taking the time and effort to meaningfully characterize its cast, each character is made uniquely memorable while also being explored to such a depth that they still come across as realistic despite their oddities.

Empathy is a Writer's Greatest Weapon

While perfecting the technical elements of a story plays a key role in making it great, it's important to never forget the importance of player empathy. In the end, regardless of how interesting the plot is or how witty the dialogue may be, if the player does not have a strong emotional connection to the narrative, it is all for naught. Working to maintain that link of empathy is crucial.



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