# PHASE 5 - CREATE

# A Reel

Co-funded by the European Union

## 1. Anchor: character reference sheet

Your character must look the same in every scene. The fix is a reference sheet: one image showing the same person from many angles. You'll attach it to every future scene.

**A — Open your project in your AI tool**
- Start a new thread named Untold Stories Video — [your character's name].
- Paste in your character description (3–4 sentences from Phase 1 + Phase 2).
- Upload your Phase 1 character image.

**B — Generate the reference sheet**
Send this prompt to an AI tool that can generate an image with your Phase 1 image attached as the input:

```
Create a professional character reference sheet of the
exact same person from the reference image, on a plain
white background.

LAYOUT
Top row: four close-up head shots — front-facing, left
profile, right profile, back of head.
Bottom row: three full-body shots — front, side, back.

CONSISTENCY
Replicate facial structure, skin tone, hair colour and
styling, eye colour, eye shape from the reference image.

PERIOD-ACCURATE CLOTHING (same in every view)
[describe — fabric, cut, period, condition]

LIGHTING
Soft, neutral studio lighting. Flat and even. No shadows.

STYLE
Photorealistic, sharp micro-detail, RAW photograph.

NOT ALLOWED
Modern clothing, modern objects, fantasy elements,
sunglasses, masks, anything anachronistic for
[TIME / PLACE].
```

**C — Save it**
- Download the image. Name it [character]-reference-sheet.png.
- Pin it inside your Hyperagent thread.
- You'll attach this to every future scene.

**CHECK**

**Same person across all 5 views?**
**Period-accurate clothing matches across views?**
**No text, captions, or bubbles drawn into the image?**
**Style reference clearly shows the look?**

*If unsure: "We are not sure if our chosen style fits because _____"*

## 2. Build scene 1's still

You're not making the video yet. You're making one still picture — the first frame of the video clip you'll generate next. The look you settle on becomes the recipe for everything else.

**A — Pick your camera style first**

**Sensitivity check: if your character is someone whose voice was historically silenced — an enslaved person, a child labourer, a prisoner — the "selfie influencer" framing can feel disrespectful. Documentary often serves them better.**

| | VLOG / Selfie | DOCUMENTARY / Observed |
|---|---|---|
| **What it looks like** | The character holds the camera and talks directly to the viewer. | The camera watches the character from outside, like a film scene. |
| **Best for** | Personality-driven stories, characters who feel like guides, modern-feeling reels. | Quiet observed moments, characters who should not break the fourth wall. |
| **Sensitivity check** | Would a vlog framing make this character look like a tourist in their own life? | Does the story need the character speaking to you, or to someone in the scene? |
| **Examples that fit** | A merchant showing their goods. A scholar describing their work. | A child slave in a kitchen. A prisoner waiting. A widow at a grave. |

***Sensitivity check:** if your character is someone whose voice was historically silenced — an enslaved person, a child labourer, a prisoner — the "selfie influencer" framing can feel disrespectful. Documentary often serves them better.*

***B — Pull Scene 1 from your storyboard***
*Note for Scene 1: who is in it / where / what is happening / why this scene matters.*

***C — Fill in the image prompt (vlog example below)***

```
A still image — the first frame of a short video.

[CHARACTER NAME], a [age] [role] from [TIME / PLACE],
holds a small hand-held camera in selfie style with one
arm outstretched. The camera is not visible.

[CHARACTER] is in [SETTING — physical location, time of
day, what is around them]. The location must feel alive.

[CHARACTER] looks directly at the camera with [EXPRESSION].

PERIOD DETAILS (must match the reference sheet)
- Clothing: [details]
- Hairstyle / headwear: [details]
- Setting only contains period objects: [list 2-3]

LIGHTING
[natural, period-appropriate]

STYLE
Photorealistic, cinematic, hyperrealistic micro-detail.

NOT ALLOWED
Modern clothing, modern objects, modern buildings,
plastic, electrical wires, anachronisms.
```

*Documentary version: same template but camera observes from outside; character does NOT look at camera.*

***D — Generate, check, iterate***

*Run with your AI tool, attach your character reference sheet as the input image.*

*Regenerate ONLY if: different person / clearly modern detail / wrong framing / object missing.*
*Don't regenerate for: slight expression / pose variations / cosmetics.*

**CHECK**

**- Same character?**
**- Same style?**
**- No AI-rendered text?**
**- Clear bubble space?**
**- One clear action that matches the brief?**
**- No modern slips?**

*If unsure, write down any historical detail you are unsure about and explain why.* ***Regenerate for major history or consistency mistakes only. Accept small cosmetic flaws and move on.***

## 3. Bring Scene 1 to life

Now the still moves and speaks. The clip is 5–8 seconds. Your character says one short sentence. Video gen is the most expensive step — get the prompt right before generating.

**A — Write ONE short sentence of dialogue**
- Length: 12–25 words for a 5–8 second clip
- Style: how this character would actually talk — not modern, not over-dramatic
- One thought, not a paragraph

Read it out loud with a stopwatch. Lands in 5–8 seconds at a natural pace? If not, cut.

**B — Fill in the image-to-video prompt (vlog example)**

```
[CHARACTER NAME] films [himself / herself / themselves]
vlogging style, looking at the camera.

VOICE
[tone — e.g. "calm and thoughtful"]
[accent — e.g. "regional accent for [TIME/PLACE]"]
Natural human delivery — slight pauses and breath.
No modern slang.

DIALOGUE
[CHARACTER] says: "[ONE SHORT SENTENCE — 12 to 25 words]"

ACTION WHILE SPEAKING
[one small gesture — e.g. "the wind catches their hair"]

BACKGROUND
[same as the still — minimal change].

AMBIENT SOUND
[period-appropriate — e.g. "distant market chatter"]

DURATION
5-second clip. One clear continuous action.

NOT ALLOWED
Modern slang, modern accents, dramatic over-acting,
character holding a phone, music swells.
```

**C — Generate the clip**

In your AI tool that can **generate a video**, use:
- First-frame image — your Scene 1 still
- Reference image — your character reference sheet
- Prompt — the one above

Set duration to 5 seconds (up to 8 if dialogue needs it). The model creates the video and the voice — no separate voice tool needed.

**If the call is rejected:**
- "Unsupported video generation request" → drop the reference image, keep only the first-frame image. Your still already contains the character.
- "durationSeconds out of bound" → try 8 seconds instead of 5. Veo sometimes rejects 5s for image-to-video; 8s always works.

**CHECK**

**Dialogue fits the clip?** Was the character cut off, or were there long awkward silences? If yes, adjust the dialogue length and regenerate.
**Same person?** Does the character look like the same person as in the reference sheet?
**Stays in period?** No modern slip that crept in during animation?
**Audio matches setting?** The ambient sound is period-appropriate, not random?
**Tone right?** Voice not too modern, not over-acted, not silly when the story is serious?

*If unsure, write down why the voice or tone might be wrong.*
***Regenerate only if the character changes, the dialogue is unclear, a modern object appears, or the tone is clearly wrong. Ignore tiny mouth, blink, or cosmetic issues.***

## 4. Recipe → Scale →Edit → Publish

One scene works. That pattern is your recipe. Save it once, scale to the rest, edit in CapCut, attach Creator's Note + AI Audit. Ship.

**A — Save the recipe as a skill (if your AI tool can do this)**
Reflect first (5 min, no AI): what 3 details did I repeat? what kept the character / dialogue right? what did AI keep getting wrong?

```
Save my scene recipe as a skill called "[Character]

Scene Generator". The skill should know: my character,
evidence, style, image-prompt template, video-prompt
template, and "NOT ALLOWED" list. When I describe a new
scene from my storyboard, the skill should produce: an
image prompt, an image-to-video prompt, one short
dialogue sentence (12–25 words), and an evidence note
marking fact / smart guess / uncertain.
```

***Group running short on time?** Save the recipe as a project document instead — paste it manually for each scene.*

***Test before scaling:** ask the skill for Scene 2's plan only (no image yet). If it drifts, fix the recipe now.*

**B — Scale to the rest**
For each remaining scene: plan → audit → still → clip → save → next.
A scene plan should give you: title, what happens, image prompt, video prompt, dialogue, evidence ID(s) (F1, SG2), things to verify.

**AUDIT every scene plan BEFORE generating**
- Perspective — character's knowledge only
- Evidence by ID — every claim cites F1 / SG2 / U3
- No modern slips — voice, prompt, or visuals
- Dialogue length — 12–25 words, sayable in 5–8s
- Storyboard match + dignity

Third-reference trick — once 1–2 scenes are approved, attach one approved still as a third reference for the rest. Locks consistency harder.

**C — Edit in CapCut**
- Import all clips, place in storyboard order, trim awkward starts/ends.
- Add a title card at start and a closing card with the Creator's Note.
- Captions: auto-caption, lower third, simple sans-serif.
- Soft transitions only. No music — Veo's native audio is enough.
- Export: 9:16 (reels) or 16:9 (classroom), 1080p, 30fps, MP4.

Pro tip: generate your title and closing card images back in Hyperagent — keeps the visual world consistent to the last frame.

**When you finish early**
- Share your skill with the class — make the description and "when to use" clear so another group can swap in their character
- Project webpage — host the video, Creator's Note, AI Audit, museum object photo, evidence list at one shareable URL
- Alternative perspective companion — generate one short clip from the opposite viewpoint on the same object; place side-by-side in CapCut
- Quality review — trade videos with another group; review using their CHECK panels and AI Audit template

**CHECK**

**Same character across all scenes so far? Evidence respected?** Nothing the character couldn't know about? **Dialogue length right** 5–8s, 1 sentence? **No modern slips? Matches storyboard description Recipe still serving you, or does the recipe need an update?**

*If unsure, note why the scene might not be right.* ***If two scenes fail in the same way, stop generating and fix the recipe first. Don't waste time or credits on the same mistake.***