Gaining Advantage 020: Be Kind. Roll High.

August 12, 2022



Roleplaying games change lives. But what happens when you intentionally turn that dial to 11? We welcome Peter Jung from Roll for Kindness to explain how that happens and how you can do it.

0:00 Introduction

04:04 Interview: Peter Jung

32:57 Wrap-up

Manually captioned. Transcript available at our website.

Roll for Kindness Links

- Using RPGs for Good: https://rollforkindness.com/pathways-for-using-rpgs-for-go od/
- Twitter: https://twitter.com/RollForKindness

Wyrmworks Publishing

Limitless Heroics: http://inclusiverpg.com

■ The Lair: https://lair.WyrmworksPublishing.com

• Minis: http://mini.inclusiverpg.com

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• Twitter: https://twitter.com/wyrmworksdale

Castle Curb Cuts: 10 reasons why ramps in D&D dungeons make sense

August 12, 2022



When Jennifer Kretchmer presented the *scandalous* idea of ramps in dungeons in *Candlekeep Mysteries*, a significant portion of the D&D community couldn't wrap their mental dice bags around such a concept. It seemed incomprehensible to make dungeons more accessible, and I still get *multiple daily* angry or derisive comments to that effect whenever I run Facebook ads promoting

our products.

But just as curb cuts, those little ramps in sidewalk curbs, were designed for wheelchairs but benefit strollers, shopping carts, bicyclists, and anyone else who uses wheels, including them in dungeons may be more sensible than stairs, regardless what adventurers may come investigating.

So since I get tired of writing the same responses repeatedly, as do others who fight for accessibility and disability representation, consider these concepts, and feel free to comment below.

1. Are dungeons supposed to be inaccessible?

Dungeons are designed to keep people out!

Are they, though? That depends on the dungeon. It's a generic term that can refer to any number of structures for any number of purposes. Often, a dungeon is a space that has either intentionally or naturally changed purpose over time. Maybe it was once a castle basement used for storage or as a siege shelter. Or a crypt. Or a cave. Or a menagerie. Or a majestic castle. Or a forest in the Feywild. When considering the accessibility of a dungeon (or any other details in its design), the designer must consider its purpose, its owner, its age, its ecology, and many other factors. But while the 10'×10' stone corridor underground is still a staple, it hardly represents the majority of adventuring environments in D&D.

2. Are dungeons all made from flagstone?

Flagstone, made typically from sandstone or similar materials, is the classic material design for a dungeon, but a dungeon can be packed dirt, a tunnel carved out of a mountain, the alleys in the darker sections of Waterdeep, massive caverns in the Underdark, the City of Brass on the Elemental Plane of Fire, a rickety old wooden mansion, or the rubble of ancient ruins. Each of these presents accessibility challenges to different characters — my tiefling warlock with chronic leg pain will manage a whole lot better than an able-bodied elf druid in the City of Brass, and if the steps in the haunted mansion suddenly become a slide, the walking character will be prone while the wheelchair user holds out a spear and yells, "Charge!"

3. What was the dungeon before it was haunted ruins?

How many people are specifically building dungeons, anyway? They're difficult to make and not particularly practical. Most dungeons used to be something else (or still are). The dragon isn't going to build human-sized steps into its lair. A xorn digging through the Elemental Plane of Earth will create smooth tunnels. Water eroding an ancient cavern won't erode at jagged 90° angles. An ancient dwarven mine would never have stairs (and may even have cart tracks or elevators). And the inside of a crashed spaceship will have smooth hallways and elevators. That doesn't preclude the possibility of steps, a stone cliff (which is difficult for anyone but the rogue or monk to climb), or other obstacles, but if you can creatively find a way to cross that pit filled with a gelatinous cube, you can bet that a seasoned adventurer has some tricks up their sleeve to overcome

4. Have you ever tried carrying an occupied coffin down stairs?

Many dungeons were or are still crypts designed either for a wealthy family or to keep an ancient evil contained. If the current occupant came into that crypt in a pine box, you can bet there's a ramp. I've attended and conducted dozens of funerals, and there's a reason modern morticians use carts for coffins — they're heavy, especially with a body in them! (And the bigger the corpse, the heavier.) So if you're carrying that coffin to its (hopefully) final resting place, guiding a cart into an underground crypt on a ramp with a rope will save you a whole lot of effort, even if there's also steps beside the ramp, either permanently or in the form of nearby removable timbers. A party coming to investigate a restless spirit would likely find the accommodations designed by the architect or implemented by a past undertaker.

5. What size creature were your stairs designed for?

Stairs are designed for the people using them, so modern stairs are designed for a human range of heights and foot sizes. But if a dungeon occupied by both a clutch of kobolds and a family of ogres will either require the kobolds to bring climbing gear to scale ogre-sized steps or the ogres to walk sideways up the steps, even then with a lot of foot pain. A ramp easily solves this problem, not to mention making it easier to drag in fresh meat from a successful hunt or drag out bags of bones of unsuccessful adventurers.

6. How do you feed your monsters?

Speaking of dragging carcasses, you need to feed that hydra that's somehow in a chamber with only 10'×10' corridor access and dispose of its waste. While I recommend an underground river or other sewage drain for the latter (which can be its own security problem when kobolds find it), unless you have a city's worth of really gullible bullywugs that are willing to go investigate the noises that you insist are coming from a carnival with dragonfly ripple ice cream, you're going to need to kill something and transport it into those snapping jaws, and you'll have a much easier time pushing it over a ramp than stairs.

7. How did all those stones, trap mechanisms, and monsters get down there?

You know that big treasure chest full of gold and jewels? Yeah, it's probably a mimic. But if it's not, good luck lugging that thing down steps into the deepest chamber. Add tons of flagstone, support timbers, cages filled with monsters, chests of potions bottles, or whatever else you're storing down there. Put those containers on wheels down a ramp, and your building process will be a lot easier.

8. Which lasts longer in treacherous environments, stairs or ramps?

As noted above, flagstone is usually made from sandstone. Sandstone erodes. That's how sedimentary rock forms. If that ancient staircase is as ancient as you describe, it's probably a

ramp by now, albeit irregular, which would be even easier to navigate if it has some landings.

9. Dwarves had specific skills to detect ramps as early as 1st Edition.

In AD&D, dwarves could, "Detect grade or slope in passage: 1-5 on 1d6." In other words, ramps in underground passages aren't some new 5e concept — they're oldschool. Some were gradual, thus the check, and some were more obvious, but they had this skill in the first place because when you're digging a mine or underground city and need to move a lot of rock and goods around, slopes make a lot more sense than steps. And elevators, even better. And purple worms don't burrow in straight lines.

10. It's fantasy but makes the real world better.

All this fantasy talk is fun, but real lives are the most important factor. Discussions of "realistic" in a world where a spoken word can transform steps into a ramp or a mudslide or a mimic or a dimensional gateway, what matters most is the effect on our players. Even if a disabled player doesn't want to play a disabled character, including disabled NPCs and the effects of their existence in your world tells your players, "I don't want to imagine a world without you in it."

Attention Deficit (ADHD) for D&D 5e

August 12, 2022



How can you represent Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in 5e that reflects real world experiences? Here's a free sample from Limitless Heroics to implement them in your game.

Content Warning: Cyberbullying

Last year, I posted an early draft version of this preview to promote Limitless Heroics as I prepared for the Kickstarter campaign. In December, it, and consequently I, became the target of a Twitter https://example.com/hater-cyberbullying attack by hundreds of people throughout the TTRPG community.

As a result of that, I pulled it down and wanted to hide. I seriously considered canceling the campaign altogether and closing up shop completely, but too many people were counting on me, and I was encouraged by some well-respected people in the industry to carry on, so with much trepidation, I continued with the campaign, avoiding Twitter and literally getting nauseated every time my phone made the new email chime for fear of the subsequent hate that flowed from that attack, and it has taken me this long to work up the courage to make this revised sample live again, reminding myself that, as big as the Twitter mob was, I've received nearly as many heartfelt notes of thanks and support, and ten times as many have already backed or preordered

it. And with help from a licensed counselor, I'm learning to manage the subsequent anxiety and depression I've developed.

Ironically, I was recently diagnosed with ADHD myself, so I post this revision with confidence as it also reflects my own lived experience and that of many more who also have given input and affirm this as a reflection of their own experiences, plus it has been discussed and revised based on feedback from five sensitivity readers from multiple fields.

Because ADHD is a complex condition with a variety of expressions, we broke it into at least 3 separate traits with options for more, depending on your experience, but here are the three most common associated traits. (I personally have several more.)

You can use this sample by itself for free or <u>purchase a copy of Limitless Heroics</u> for a more comprehensive guide to disability, neurodiversity, and mental illness representation in fifth edition. Thanks for your interest in making the D&D and broader TTRPG space more inclusive and representative. (If you use it alone, IE = Impact Extent. <u>See the tables for an explanation</u>.)

LAYOUT NOTE: The format of this preview does not reflect the final format of Limitless Heroics, which we designed for maximum accessibility, including dyslexia-friendly.



Download the Preview at DriveThruRPG

No posts found.

Disability, Neurodiversity, and Mental Health Resources for Tabletop Roleplaying Games

August 12, 2022



Here's a growing collection of resources to improve your life or to help you improve the lives of others.

Representation Resources

- Ableist Tropes in Storytelling « Oppression Aware Podcast,
 Fairy Tales, and Games (Interview)
- Writing Characters With Disabilities
- Forge Ahead: A Party to Access
- DnD Disability
- Combat Wheelchair 3
- Limitless Heroics

Miniatures

- Limitless Champions
- Combat Wheelchair
- Skinny Minis

Accessibility Resources

- Accessibility in Gaming Resources
- Roll for Kindness
- A big list of accessibility resource lists
- Braille Dice (Interview)

Mental Health Tools

- Jasper's Game Day (Interview)
- TTRPG Safety Toolkit
- Consent in Gaming from Monte Cook Games
- MCDM Tabletop Safety Toolkit
- #CouchCon Charity Panel: "Sanity Checks & Stigma- Mental Health in TTRPGs" — YouTube

Publisher Resources

- CNIB Clear Print Guide
- ADA Compliant Print Short Guide
- Accessible Print Guide

Feel free to add more in the comments below!

Limitless Champions: Disabled Fantasy 3D Miniatures

August 12, 2022



Update: Don't miss the adventures!

We are making a **book of adventures** that feature these characters and demonstrate how to use them respectfully in a roleplaying game. Follow the Kickstarter to get notified when it launches for an **early backer bonus adventure**!

And <u>sign up for The Dragon's Hoard</u> to get weekly inclusive gaming updates, discounts, free gifts, and more in your inbox!

We are making history!

- What if your fantasy RPG world included disabled people, just like the real world?
- What if that disability representation went beyond wheelchairs and pirates?

We're creating the largest, most diverse line of disabled fantasy miniatures ever made with 5e stat blocks and cards, which <u>launched in a Kickstarter campaign</u> on May 2, 2023.

Limitless Champions will make history as the largest, most diverse collection of disabled fantasy game miniatures ever created.

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arBackers at Silver or higher within the first 48 hours get a acfree alternate STL of Rohna Ginnsley, a bard who uses her temulti-armed wheelchair for assistance! (Available to others as an add-on)

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- Alopecia Areata
- Amputation
- Anxiety/Panic Disorder (represented by a fidget, grounding device, and emotional comfort animal)
- Arthritis
- Blindness
- Cerebral Palsy
- Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (Myalgic Encephalomyelitis)
- Down Syndrome
- Dwarfism (Diastrophic Dysplasia)
- Ectrodactyly
- Fibromyalgia

- Face Differences (Treacher Collins syndrome, Cleft Palate)
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Quadriplegia

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Each character includes:

- 5e Stat block
- Background & Personality
- Full color character art
- Miniature (Choice of STL, pre-printed mini)
- Plot hooks for inclusion in your game

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Also included:

- Condition markers accessible to visually impaired gamers
- Wooden chests with custom artwork
- Digital Planner stickers & VTT Tokens (Stretch Goal)
- Service Animals (Stretch Goals)

The character collection follows accessibility principles for maximum readability (dyslexia, colorblindness, etc.) and will be available in multiple formats: PDF, ePub, txt, audio, and it will be included in Lair format for all subscribers.

Wyrmworks Publishing prioritizes <u>hiring</u> disabled, neurodiverse, and mentally ill creators for all of our projects, and characters on this project are based on a combination of

research and conversations from previous projects, real-world people who commissioned characters based on themselves, and consultation with therapists, advocacy professionals, people whose experiences are represented here, and before the final sensitivity reading and edit, besides playtesting, we will send the manuscript to backers who are represented here for additional feedback.

Missed the Campaign?

All of the pieces are available in our store:

Check out the whole collection

Apply to freelance for Wyrmworks Publishing

August 12, 2022



We're accepting ongoing applications from a variety of freelancers who are interested in working with us to make lives better through tabletop roleplaying games. If you are a TTRPG creator or artist who would like to work with us, please submit the following.

Gaining Advantage 019: Finding Your Space

August 12, 2022



How do you get started with Dungeons & Dragons and find a group that's right for you? We welcome Montana Rosalle from YVR Dungeon Masters to give you some help!

• 0:00 Introduction

• 01:44 Interview: Montana Rosalle

■ 23:56 Wrap-up

Manually captioned. Transcript available at our website.

YVR Dungeon Masters Links

Website: https://www.yvrdungeonmasters.comFacebook: https://www.facebook.com/YVRDM/

• Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/yvrdungeonmasters/

Wyrmworks Publishing

Limitless Heroics: http://inclusiverpg.com

Minis: http://mini.inclusiverpg.com

Wyrmworks Publishing: http://wyrmworkspublishing.com

Patreon: https://Patreon.com/wyrmworkspublishing

Facebook: https://facebook.com/wyrmworkspublishing

- Twitter: https://twitter.com/wyrmworksdale

Gaining Advantage 018: Excellence in TTRPG with @MForbeck

August 12, 2022



How can game excellence make lives better? We welcome Matt Forbeck to talk about excellence in game design.

• 0:00 Introduction

• 02:54 Interview: Matt Forbeck

■ 21:46 Wrap-up

Manually captioned. Transcript available at our website.

Matt Forbeck Links

- Main: http://www.forbeck.com
- Shotguns & Sorcery 5E preorders: https://shotguns-n-sorcery.backerkit.com/hosted_preorders
- Diana Jones Award: https://www.dianajonesaward.org
- Marvel RPG: https://www.marvel.com/rpg

Wyrmworks Publishing

- Limitless Heroics: http://inclusiverpg.com
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Become a Wyrmworks Publishing Affiliate

August 12, 2022



Fans, podcasters, streamers, and anyone else who thinks more people should know about Wyrmworks Publishing's products and wants to join us in helping you make lives better with tabletop roleplaying games, we have an offer for you!

Join the Wyrmworks Publishing Affiliate program, give your fans a discount, and get a commission as our thanks!

- 1. Sign up using the form below.
- 2. We will review your application. If we feel you are a good fit, we will send you a link to our affiliate contract and promotion graphics.
- 3. Once you sign the contract, we will give you a coupon code.
- 4. Anyone new who buys one or more of our products using your coupon code gets a 10% off discount, and you get a 10% commission! It's a win for you, a win for your fans, and it helps get the word out about our products and mission!

And if you want to use our products in actual play shows or similar uses, we can help you with samples or discounts.

Gaining Advantage 017: Accessible Benefits from TTRPG

August 12, 2022



How can the TTRPG industry teach the rest of the world about accessibility? We welcome Katriel Paige to talk about their work in accessibility.

- 0:00 Introduction
- 02:46 Interview: Katriel Paige
- 30:24 Wrap-up

Manually captioned. Transcript available at our website.

Katreil Paige Links

- Tabletop Accessibility Page
- Website
- Twitter: okit_flowerstorm
- <u>Two to Tengu adventure on DMs Guild</u> (co-designed with Lex Winter)
- Dystopia Rising: Evolution on DriveThruRPG

Wyrmworks Publishing

- Limitless Heroics: https://inclusiverpg.com
- http://wyrmworkspublishing.com
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