

Opportunities Lost

A Game of Mechanical Mortality

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A game for one to play and others to helplessly witness.

You are an explorer science robot. You were built by an intelligent species limited in their opportunities for direct exploration by their biology. You are able to travel farther than they can, and they have sent you into an environment they cannot survive, to explore and discover. They love you. They cheer for you. They worry about you. They have lost others like you, and they mourn for your predecessors. They are waiting for your transmissions.

You will need:

1d6 or equivalent randomizing number tool

Access & device to post text/images to Twitter

Safe environment where you can transmit your reports to Twitter & play comfortably

Play note:

Resist the temptation to look at any replies to your tweets until after play is concluded.

Post your transmissions as replies to the previous tweet so your game will appear as a thread.

Your robot may not reply to any messages it is sent during the game, it can only send its transmissions within the limitations described below.

Round 1: You have 6 points of opportunity.

You have arrived in your research environment. Alert your makers to your arrival by posting text and an image.

You may post 1 image and 6 words, equal to your opportunity. Include the hashtag #opportunitygame (which never counts against your word limit)

Round 2+: Explore your environment, for science. Notice all the detail and nuance that you will never be able to fully convey to your makers.

Roll 1d6 and consult the following chart:

1: Something in the environment has permanently interfered with your equipment. Document it with an image and lose 2 opportunity.

2: Something in the environment has temporarily interfered with your equipment. Document it with an image and lose 2 opportunity.

3: Something in the environment has provided an unexpected challenge to your mobility. Document it with an image and lose 1 opportunity.

4: Something in the environment is unrecognizable to you. Document it with an image.

5: Something in the environment matches an item or category your programmed recognition database. Document it with an image.

6: You observe an extremely unlikely and fortuitous event or object that your makers made sure you were programmed to recognize. Document it with an image and gain 1 opportunity.

Recalculate your opportunity points.

Post the image along with a number of words equal to your opportunity.

Include the hashtag #opportunitygame (which never counts against your word limit)

Repeat Round 2 until your opportunity drops to zero.

Final Round: Your mechanics have permanently failed and your opportunities are lost.

Post one final image from your current location including the hashtag #opportunitygame

Game by Ash Cheshire, inspired by my intense feels for Philae, Rover, Opportunity, & all the brave robots

Feedback welcomed!