

## Magic Effectiveness Project – Questionnaire

First of all, thank you for taking the time to participate in this project. Our goal in all of this is to collect the experiences of a wide range of Magic players to try and distill out those traits that can be built upon to improve our game. In the long run, we'd like to be able to help each player find their strong points, so they can emphasize those and make improving at Magic a *fun* part of the game, instead of a chore.

Because, after all, this is a game, so it should be fun.

This is a pretty open-ended questionnaire, and it has just a few required questions before we transition into some prompts to help you think about your own experience with Magic. You can be as verbose as you like, and can go ahead and fill out the Word document, or just write your answers into an email or using another text editor. Once you're done, please send your response to:

**[magic@alexandershearer.com](mailto:magic@alexandershearer.com)**

Before you start on the questions, please read the following privacy notice:

### Privacy and Information Sharing Notice

By sending in a response to this questionnaire, you give Alexander Shearer permission to use your replies for the Magic Effectiveness Project, as well as for other writing and research purposes. Your text may be quoted in part or in full as part of this use.

If you would like your response anonymized, please indicate when asked below. Note that "anonymized" results will remove your name and other immediately identifying features (such as your DCI number or MTGO account name) from any subsequent use of the data. However, event names and opponent names cannot be reasonably changed, and it is possible that you will be identifiable based on this type of information.

No personal information such as email addresses, DCI numbers, or other contact information will be shared with third parties for commercial or non-commercial purposes.

## The Questionnaire

As we described above, much of this questionnaire consists of open-ended prompts that are meant to give you ideas about what you might want to write about, rather than being strictly required. Naturally, though, we have a couple of required questions to kick things off. Please answer the following to the best of your ability:

- 1) What is your name?
- 2) Why do you consider yourself a successful tournament Magic player?

*For the purposes of this project, we define a “successful tournament Magic player” as someone who has won prizes in one or more head-to-head events where entry required a fee or some other gatekeeping method, such as a PTQ.*

*Possible events include, but **are not limited to** things like these:*

*Pro Tour  
Grand Prix  
A 1K, 2K, or 5K event  
PTQ  
PT Public Event  
FNM  
MTGO PE  
MTGO Daily  
MTGO 8-4  
MTGO 8-3-2-2  
Etc...*

*So, if you win reasonably regularly at your local FNM, that qualifies. And do notice that the requirement is that you **win prizes**, meaning that a money finish at a GP is plenty good.*

- 3) How long have you been playing Magic?
- 4) How long have you been playing in tournaments?

That’s the mandatory questions out of the way. The rest of this survey is very open-ended, and it starts from this very basic question that we’d like you to consider:

**Why do you think you’ve been so successful?**

If you'd like more specific direction to prompt your thoughts on the topic, please consider any of the following questions as well:

### Tournament experiences

What's your ideal tournament experience?  
What's your typical tournament experience?  
What's the best tournament experience you've ever had?  
What's the worst?

### Game play

What's the best play you've ever made?  
Did you think of that play on the spot, or was it one you'd considered in advance?  
Do you have an affinity for a particular aspect of the game, such as mulligans? If so, what specific thoughts do you have about that part of the game?  
Do you have a specific way you interact with your opponents?  
Do you look for tells when playing an unknown opponent? Do you learn and recall tells for known opponents?  
How often do you bluff? How do you sell your bluffs?  
What do you feel are the crucial mistakes your opponents make in playing against you?

### Preparation

How do you prepare for a tournament?  
Do you prepare for most tournaments?  
How do you prepare for Limited formats?  
How do you prepare for Constructed formats?  
Do you network with other players? How?

### Deck choice and design

How do you pick a deck for a Constructed tournament?  
If you had to play a Standard tournament tomorrow using a PTQ-winning deck from the last month's tournaments which one would you pick, and why?  
Are there specific aspects of deck building, either in Limited or Constructed, that you feel you're particularly good at? If so, why are you good at them?  
Generally speaking, what type of deck do you prefer to play?

## Information

Do you refer back to old decks and events when thinking about upcoming events?

Do you read Magic articles?

Do you incorporate ideas from areas outside of Magic? If so, how?

## The game as a whole

How often do you travel for Magic?

Do you enjoy traveling for the game?

## All about you

How old are you?

What non-Magic things are you particularly good at? (e.g. baseball, math, cooking)

Are you a student now?

How much school have you completed?

Do you exercise? If so, how much?