



Creating Your Own Spreads

Why use Tarot Spreads?

- 1) They help give your readings context and eliminate confusion.
- 2) They help you see patterns and connections within the cards.
- 3) They help solve problems and offer guidance.
- 4) Spreads keep your readings on track.

Why creating your own spreads is helpful:

- 1) They are a great way to engage in your tarot practice creatively
- 2) You can find the specific answer you are looking for in your specific situation. Creating a spread forces you to examine your issue/topic/situation from every possible angle.
- 3) If you are reading for others your spreads can be part of your offerings that are unique to you.
- 4) If you are a deck creator, you can create spreads specific to your deck aesthetic
- 5) Spread creation ignites your sacred space

Understanding Your Goal:

There are two parts to a tarot reading that are important to think about; the question and the goal. The question is straightforward - but the goal may be more complex. It represents the longer term, indirect desire that you have regarding these questions. Sometimes, this goal will be implied and unspoken; a question about an argument in a relationship can ultimately be about what they need to find happiness and peace in romantic relationships. What nature of inquiries will the spread cover? What is your purpose?



Developing Positions:

In general, remember that what you're doing is really telling a story. All stories have several parts that we need to make it compelling:

Break down the question into 3 parts:

- The circumstances
- The underlying problem
- The solution

Asking a few questions from these parts can help develop the story and narrative from the tarot spread you are designing.

Clarifying the Circumstances:

One big part of painting a picture for a tarot reading is developing the landscape and stage that everything plays out on. Context is a huge part of what shapes our lives - and sometimes, we need help understanding which pieces of it play a part in our question. Sometimes we even have trouble noticing these pieces.

- What do you have no control over?
- What is hidden?
- Who is involved?
- What do I need to know?
- How is your environment?
- Where can I find help?
- Where are opportunities?
- How am I approaching the problem?
- How do others perceive me?
- Where in the journey am I?



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Targeting the Underlying Problem:

Most of the time, the root cause of someone's troubles are not an event, or an argument, or something external to themselves, but rather something that exists within - maybe a pattern, a coping mechanism, an inner trauma.

- What is blocking me?
- What are the obstacles?
- What is my true wish?
- What is my ultimate goal?
- What would make me happy?
- What do I need to develop?
- What can I change?
- What are my strengths?
- What are my weaknesses?
- What is my biggest challenge?

Finding the Solution:

Tarot is about being able to clarify and understand yourself well enough to take your future in your own hands. This part of the reading should focus on what you can do to take control of the problem. It's all about developing a feeling of empowerment for yourself or who you're reading for.

- What advice do I need?
- What can help me overcome?
- What can I do?
- Where is this leading to?
- How can I use opportunities?
- Where should I focus?
- What do I need to let go of?
- What do I need to learn?



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Designing the Layout:

Once you've pulled a few questions out for each section, you can now go ahead and think about the flow of the story - the order you want these answers to appear in, and generally how the story will look. A spread that asks about many decisions can be laid out like a cross, for example. Most importantly, it is the story you tell that matters, and usually stories are told by laying out the circumstances, developing the problem, and creating a resolution. By placing cards in certain ways, you can create interesting dynamics.

- Are cards going to oppose each other?
- Are they going to be adjacent to each other?
- Is there a significance with card numbers?
- Are the numerological principles in the spread?
- How does the indication of each card relate back to the goal?

Creativity in Spread Pattern:

Magical Shapes:

Use the shape of the spread to set a magical intention: The pattern you form with your cards can also act as a sigil or a symbolic representation of your desired outcome.

- Square: Spreads concerning stability, security, structure, and strength.
- Circle: Spreads concerning cohesiveness, well-being, continuity, integration, and wellness.
- Heart: Spreads concerning love, passion, and matters of the heart.
- Upward Pointing Pyramid: Spreads regarding the higher self, spiritual matters, and enlightenment.
- Downward Pointing Pyramid: Spreads regarding the subconscious, hidden motives, base desires, and driving forces.
- Staircases Moving Up or Down: Spreads concerning where you want to go.

References:

Holistic Tarot – Benebell Wen
www.labyrinthos.co