WALTER WHITE



Introduction

Walter White was an unassuming chemistry teacher when he was diagnosed with cancer. In order to save money for his family, he began a life of crime, in which he got more and more involved, eventually becoming one of the most infamous and dangerous drug kingpins in the world: Heisenberg.

In this doc, I'll go over his feats from the show Breaking Bad, looking at the thought processes and machinations he employed throughout.

Note that this doc aims to scale the character as high as possible, which means I'll sometimes be interpreting the source material, but keep in mind that the validity of any feat can always be contended in a debate referring to the doc. I don't consider

docs to be the be-all end-all of debating so cases like these are not me trying to wank the character but simply me getting the most juice out of what I'm given. I'll make sure to be clear through my wording when I'm talking about fully confirmed segments and when I'm basing myself on implications or interpretations.

Keep in mind that I don't think every subcat needs a thorough explanation, especially fluid/crystallized intelligence and certain thinking subcats (for example I don't think that there's a need to mention that Walter had to come up with an idea every time I write down divergent thinking), but I will give an explanation every time the use of one of these categories is notable.

Throughout the doc, I highlighted a few of Walter's plans. My criterion was to do this only with plans that had a clear execution process and that were at least somewhat major. Strategies are trickier as they usually involve multiple episodes and get intertwined with other feats, so I didn't do the same for those.

IMPORTANT NOTE: I left a summary in the end which you can find in the tabs. This is because the doc exceeds 260k characters and I have a feeling not many people will be willing to go through it all. The summary includes short descriptions of Walter's most notable feats for each episode, so that if you are interested in reading the details on said feat, you can go back to the mentioned episode's analysis and read the related section. If possible, I would still recommend reading the whole doc in chronological order as otherwise you might miss some important context or some feats that might not be notable enough to put in the summary but still deserve some attention.

COLOR LEGEND:

Full-Scale IQ, General Intellect, Adaptability, Miscellaneous...

Emotional Intelligence, Social Intelligence, Adversity Capacity, Psychology...

Thinking, Reasoning, Sensory...

Strategy, Planning, Tactics, Improvisation...

Manipulation, Deception...

Anticipation, Prediction, Field Skills...

SPOILERS FOR ALL SEASONS OF BREAKING BAD

Off-Screen Feats

In his earlier years, Walter's research in X-ray crystallography contributed to winning a Nobel Prize and founding a multi-billion-dollar company. ***[Overall Thinking + Knowledge, Knowledge Application, Academics, Learning Ability, Crystallized Intelligence, Fluid Reasoning Index, Verbal Comprehension Index (verbally stored concepts and knowledge), Experience]***

Season 1 Feats



S1E1 —

Walter finds out that he has lung cancer. Under-paid and under-achieving, he decides to take up the offer that his brother-in-law, Hank, who is a DEA agent, gave him for a ride-along during a raid on a meth lab.
This is the start of Walter's Meth-Cooking Strategy, which he will be developing during the course of the series. The final goal is to leave money to his family. The idea came to him, after seeing an interview with Hank on TV, that the drug world can be very profitable even for simple criminals, so considering Walter's expertise in chemistry, he should be able to earn quite a lot. Walter's goal for the ride-along is to get to look around the lab to familiarize himself with the equipment, as well as probably decide whether he's actually going through with the strategy or not. To think of this strategy, Walter had to consider the unusual idea of diving into the world of crime (he's an honest and straightforward person at this point), then assess his goals in relation to the information he has by connecting his knowledge of chemistry and what he learned on TV. During the ride-along, he had to hide his

intentions not only from Hank but also from Steve Gomez, another DEA agent who, unlike Hank, shouldn't have much judgment bias when it comes to Walter. To note, every feat Walter achieves early on in his meth-cooking career is partly achieved by engaging with his negative emotions from the cancer diagnosis, with the main goal of making money for his family. In this terrible situation that would cause most people to go depressed or otherwise feel powerless or unmotivated, Walter gives himself a goal and goes through with it. The idea to enter the crime world shows how much he's willing to risk for his family (and deep down, for the desire to achieve something in life) and flies in the face of the idea that everyone in his life has for him. ***[Long-Term Strategy, Strategy Vision, Strategy Logistics, Strategy Efficiency, Strategy Building, Adaptability + Decision Making, Thinking: Linear/Vertical, Lateral/Horizontal, Divergent, Convergent, Critical, Connective + Acting Skills, Concealing + Emotional Engagement + Mental Fortitude, Determination, Cognitive Discipline + Fluid Intelligence + Unpredictability]***

During the raid, Hank and Gomez tell Walter to stay in the car while they make the lab safe. This is when Walter sees his former student Jesse Pinkman escape from the house. Walter notices that Jesse's car is plated "THE CAPN" and concludes he must be this Cap'n Cook that Hank and Gomez were looking for, as opposed to the man who they caught during the raid, Emilio Koyama. The fact that Walter keeps this information hidden means he must've already thought of his plan between seeing Jesse and meeting with Hank again. Before that same evening, Walter searches and finds information on Jesse in the school's filing system, figuring it'd still be there via his knowledge of the school system. Walter finds Jesse outside his house and explains to him why it'd be convenient for the two to partner up. On top of that, he sets the ultimatum to Jesse that should he refuse the offer, Walter would turn him in. Walter executes this plan by following Jesse's logical thought process if faced with the situation Walter is putting him in, figuring he'd accept, as he'd have more to lose by not accepting to work with Walter. Walter is completely calm during this meeting, which shows that he knows he won't be attacked, since despite Jesse being a criminal, he's also Walter's former student. With this plan, Walter has found his first big connection to the world of drug dealing. ***[Observation, Abductive Reasoning, Thinking: Associative + Acting Skills, Concealing + Short-Term Planning, Formulation Speed, Tactics + Information Gathering + Connective Thinking + Manipulation Methods (Blackmailing), Persuasion, Logical Manipulation + Thinking: Linear, Critical + Planning Coverage, Risk Calculation, Tactical Synergy + Composure + Logical Prediction +***

***Psychological Insight** + **Strategy Building, Strategy Execution, Planning Aim** + **Fluid Intelligence**]*

After buying an RV, Walter and Jesse cook their first batch using some chemistry utensils Walter steals from the school where he works. Walter has memorized the needed equipment after seeing it once in the ride-along. When stealing the utensils, Walter has to make sure not to run into anyone and to avoid any surveillance system the school might have, which shows him being familiar with the layout of the place. We're later shown that investigations on the stolen equipment only started after a gas mask with the school's markings was found on a crime scene, while before that the theft had gone mostly ignored. It's likely Walter understood the procedures of his school and knew the thing would've most likely gone unnoticed. As he prepares to cook, Walter takes off most of his clothes to avoid the smell getting on them, which could garner suspicion back home. Walter proceeds to do his thing. The quality of the result completely shocks Jesse. We later find out that this meth is 99.1% pure, apparently the purest ever seen, to the point where the chemist who analyzed it, a professional DEA specialist with all his equipment, claims he couldn't have done better. Keep in mind, not only is this Walter's first attempt, but it was achieved with mediocre equipment. ***[Strategy Execution, Strategy Efficiency** + **Working Memory Index** + **Visual-Spatial Index** + **Strategy Resilience, Strategy Logistics, Risk Calculation** + **Strategy Resilience** + **Knowledge, Knowledge Application, Academics, Crystallized Intelligence, Fluid Intelligence**]*

Jesse brings some of Walter's meth to one of his contacts, Krazy-8, who turns out to have bailed Emilio Koyama out of jail. Krazy-8 deduces that Jesse didn't cook the meth by himself and forces him to lead them to the real cook. Koyama recognizes Walter from the ride-along and thinks that he and Jesse are working with the DEA. Koyama's being there isn't something Walter could have anticipated, but he still adapts by coming up with a solution. This is despite the levels of stress and fear he was feeling when confronted by two criminals, about to kill him, while being a normally meek chemistry teacher with no experience in any of this. He convinces Krazy-8 to let him teach him the recipe of his very valuable meth and makes him think he's just trying to show himself to be valuable, engaging with his fear for a more convincing performance, this way he can get an opportunity to use his superior knowledge in chemistry to get rid of them, knowing that in that situation they'd have all to gain and nothing to lose by letting him work. As he's cooking, he

mixes certain ingredients to create the very deadly phosphine gas and uses the opportunity created by the small chemical explosion to run out of the RV and close the door behind him, causing Krazy-8 and Koyama to choke on the gas. Walter successfully adapted to the first major hazard in his strategy with a solution that required assessing what his enemies wanted from the situation and the resources at his disposal, as well as being creative in using chemistry. Part of the reason for deciding to kill them was certainly that he knew they were likely going to kill him anyway once he gave them his recipe. ***[Improvisation, Formulation Speed, Short-Term Planning, Tactics, Tactical Potency, Adaptability + Emotional Management, Stress Tolerance, Composure, Cognitive Discipline + Fluid Intelligence, Adaptability, Fluid Reasoning Index + Persuasion, Logical Manipulation, Acting Skill, Concealing, Misdirection, Strategic Deception + Emotional Engagement + Planning Versatility, Planning Execution, Risk Calculation, Tactics, Tactical Synergy + Knowledge, Knowledge Application, Academics, Crystallized Methods + Trap Setting + Planning Aim, Strategy Control, Strategy Adaptability, Counteraction + Thinking: Lateral/Horizontal, Critical, Linear/Vertical, Creative, Fast, Connective, Associative + Anticipation + Unpredictability]***

After crashing the RV during his escape, Walter hears sirens and thinks the police are coming. He prepares a recording for his family in case he gets caught or dies, and despite the incredible stress he's experiencing, he remembers to state in the recording that his words are not an admission of guilt, which also shows his knowledge regarding the law, and would keep the police away from his family, which would go against the goal of his strategy. ***[Stress Tolerance, Composure, Cognitive Discipline + Knowledge, Knowledge Application, Crystallized Intelligence, Verbal Comprehension Index + Strategy Shielding, Strategy Control]***

S1E2 —

Jesse calls Walter at home to tell him that Krazy-8 isn't dead and that he's waking up. Since the call is at his home, Walter acts as if it's a telemarketer. This kind of tactic is something he uses a lot throughout the series, which is why I won't be mentioning it every time, but it has varying degrees of success. In this case, Walter's wife, Skyler, doesn't buy it, and through research, she finds out about

Jesse. She confronts Walter about this, as well as his weird behavior and the fact that he's sometimes missing. These suspicions threaten to expose Walter's strategy. To avoid this, Walter comes up with a lie and sells it to Skyler, that being that Jesse is selling him pot, keeping her from getting closer to the truth. This lie works because:

- ➔ It builds on the information/idea Skyler had about Walter's situation and Jesse himself, as he realized from Skyler's question that she did research on Jesse and that she'd therefore be likely to know that he's involved with drugs, this way he doesn't have to make up anything about Jesse and successfully uses the information Skyler has gathered to his advantage.
- ➔ It's a negative thing that Walter is doing, justifying his hiding it from her, and it gives Skyler the opportunity to scold him, which was her goal in that situation.
- ➔ Walter follows it up by going on the offensive, telling Skyler to "climb out of his ass", to make his position more believable as something he's actually doing than if he were to immediately apologize about it or swear he wouldn't do it again, to make Skyler uncomfortable, both because she rarely sees Walter bite back like this and because to some extent he's making her feel bad about it, and therefore less likely to ask about it again. This way, he keeps his relationship with her intact.
- ➔ Also, consider that this is one of Walter's first bouts with this kind of manipulation, experimenting with new tactics and ways of thinking.

[Tactics + Strategy Control, Strategy Shielding, Adaptability + Verbal Deception, Acting Skills + Information Control + Improvisation, Formulation Speed, Tactics + Thinking: Critical, Convergent, Divergent, Lateral/Horizontal, Linear/Vertical, Fast + Strategy Alignment, Strategy Efficiency, Tactical Potency, Tactical Synergy + Psychological Manipulation + Psychological Insight, Emotional Understanding + Psychological Manipulation, Manipulation Methods (Gaslighting), Concealment + Relationship Management + Fluid Intelligence, Fluid Reasoning Index]

Note: Throughout the show, Skyler is shown to be smart and perceptive, immediately seeing through flimsy lies and having accurate suspicions, so lying to her is quite impressive, especially considering she's his wife and knows him well.

Walter comes up with the idea of using acid to dissolve Emilio's body as the best way to erase all the evidence, and gives Jesse a list of things to buy to achieve that.
[Knowledge, Knowledge Application, Crystallized Intelligence, Fluid Intelligence,

***Crystallized Methods, Strategic Adaptability* + *Strategy Shielding, Tactics* + *Thinking: Lateral/Horizontal, Connective, Divergent*]**

S1E3 —

Krazy-8 is tied to a beam in Jesse's basement, and Walter is tasked to kill him after a coin flip, but he doesn't want to do it. While biding time, Walter treats Krazy-8 quite well, occasionally bringing him food. On one of these occasions, a cough attack caused by the cancer knocks out Walter, and the plate falls to the ground, shattering into pieces. Walter wakes up and ends up telling Krazy-8 about his cancer, and then having a really friendly conversation with him, eventually being convinced to free him. Walter goes upstairs to get the key to free Krazy-8 and takes the shards of the plate with him to throw them away. Then as he's stepping away he realizes that a shard is missing from a broken plate, for which he would've needed to visualize the full plate from a bunch of fragments to notice the missing volume, Walter considers the possibility that Krazy-8 stole a shard while he was unconscious, despite Krazy-8 having put up a really convincing friendly act, which should've taken most suspicions out of Walter's mind. He takes out the shards to check if his suspicions are correct, and realizing that they are, when he goes down again, he suspects that Krazy-8 will attempt to murder him. But before doing anything, Walter wants to confirm this to be sure that Krazy-8 is really trying to kill him, so when he gets close, but not enough to get stabbed, as far as Krazy-8 knows, just to unlock him, he explicitly asks him if he's going to stick him with the plate, revealing that he knows or at least heavily suspects. From Krazy-8's point of view, this would mean that it's his last chance to possibly free himself by stabbing Walter, who's right behind him (Krazy-8 doesn't know how close) and is holding the key. Any failure to act might mean never seeing the light of day again. From a logical standpoint, as well as sheer desperation, Krazy-8 is sure to make his move as soon as Walter asks the question, at which point, he'd have no doubt that Krazy-8 was trying to kill him, and he'd be in the perfect position to choke him with the bicycle lock around his neck. Note that the distance was perfectly safe, Walter is only injured because he pushes against the beam with his leg for more strength, likely to get it done as quickly as possible as it's still very painful for Walter to kill at this point, also the reason he wanted to be completely sure about Krazy-8's bad intentions. ***[Observation* + *Visual-Spatial Index* + *Intuition, Abductive Reasoning, Thinking: Analytical, Associative (w/ the knowledge of having been knocked out)***

+ Seeing Through People + Anticipation + Tactics, Tactical Potency, Formulation Speed, Strategy Fortitude + Logical Manipulation, Psychological Manipulation + Fluid Intelligence]

Skyler has been becoming increasingly suspicious and worried due to Walter's behavior and the long time spent out with no explanation. The pot lie doesn't hold up anymore since Skyler already went to confront Jesse. On top of that, she found out that Walter quit his second job, taking away the biggest excuse for his disappearance, something that he had already promised to talk about when confronted by Skyler. Knowing her inquiring and combative nature, Walter understands that in the long run, her suspicions could jeopardize both his family life and his criminal business. So, finding her crying in her room, a sign of her distress at his secrecy, he decides to drop his bomb on her and reveal his cancer, giving an explanation for all the things about him that have been adding up while also banishing any negative thoughts she might have against him due to her shock and fear of losing him. This is a clever way to use the truth to take over Skyler's mind from all her suspicions instead of coming up with more excuses, seeing as that didn't work anymore. Walter recognized what Skyler would feel in that situation and used it to reasonably infer that this would be enough to stop her suspicions, once again maintaining his relationship with her. ***[Psychological Insight + Emotional Perception + Strategy Shielding, Strategy Control, Tactics, Tactical Potency, Tactical Potency + Emotional Manipulation, Psychological Manipulation, Direct Manipulation, Individual Manipulation, Manipulation Methods (Shifting the Goalpost (technically)) + Thinking: Lateral/Horizontal, Convergent, Associative, Abstract + Emotional Understanding + Relationship Management + Fluid Intelligence, Crystallized Intelligence]***

S1E4 —

Walter knows how to make a car engine burst into flames by using a wet squeegee. ***[Knowledge, Knowledge Application, Crystallized Methods]***

S1E5 —

Walter is at the birthday party of an old friend, Elliot, who currently owns the company that the two started in college. When Elliot offers a job, Walter declines it, saying that he has health problems, to which Elliot responds by saying that the company has great health insurance. From Elliot's tone, while saying this, Walter figures out that Skyler told him about the cancer, as it'd be the only reasonable way he could know, and knowing that she'd be looking for ways to help him with the situation. ***[Emotional Perception + Abductive Reasoning, Thinking: Linear/Vertical Holistic, Connective + Emotional Understanding]***

Despite having denied payment from Elliot, Walter lies to Skyler about this to give her a plausible source for the money he gets from his meth. ***[Verbal Deception, Acting Skills + Information Control + Long-Term Strategy, Strategy Alignment, Strategy Foresight, Tactics]***

S1E6 —

Walter continues his lie to Skyler about the payment from Elliot. He has the money deposited in his bank account on a specific date so as not to raise suspicion should anyone look into it. ***[Verbal Deception, Acting Skills, Concealment + Strategy Resilience, Strategy Foresight + Foresight, Information Control + Fluid Intelligence]***

During group therapy, Walter makes up that he enjoys "alone time" and finds isolated places, nature, and vegetation to be therapeutic, to find a new excuse for his long time spent outside. Of course, Walter knows no one is going to deny a dying man his little pleasures, especially his wife. ***[Verbal Deception, Acting Skills, Misdirection + Strategy Adaptability + Social Awareness + Strategy Resilience + Emotional Understanding]***

In a game of family poker, Hank falls for Walter's bluff, despite being absolutely sure about his move and calling Walter a bad liar. ***[Verbal & Non-Verbal Deception, Acting Skills, Bluffing]***

- **Fulminated Mercury Plan**

In an attempt to sell more meth, Walter tells Jesse to find a distributor. Jesse manages to meet with Tuco Salamanca, but it backfires, and he ends up being beaten up and hospitalized. As soon as Walter finds out about this, he asks Jesse's friend, Skinny Pete, who knows Tuco and was supposed to vouch for Jesse, to tell him everything he knows about Tuco. Keep in mind, he's looking at Jesse, hospitalized and unconscious, having just dealt with a dangerous criminal, and he immediately starts planning to confront the man who did that, showing no fear.

Walter's goal now is to establish himself as someone to respect and worth doing business with and selling his meth to Tuco for a high price.

Here's what Walter knows or what he's likely to know:

- ➔ His meth, the bag that Tuco stole from Jesse, has been selling very well.
- ➔ Everyone gets searched before a meeting with Tuco.
- ➔ Tuco accepts meth when he's given it without a second thought. This point is also further strengthened if Tuco figures out that Walter's visit is related to what happened to Jesse due to point one. This doesn't happen, but still.

Now, based on this, Walter connects his expertise in chemistry to find a solution. Knowing he can't get any weapon through, he intends to hide his weapon inside the "meth", which is the only thing he has any shot at getting inside the room with Tuco. Walter makes himself a bag of fulminated mercury, a material that explodes with violent movement. It's implied that Walter modified it ("a little tweak of chemistry"), probably to look more like meth or simply to be more powerful. Due to the aforementioned things, Walter predicts that Tuco will either let him in with the meth or have the meth taken to him and then consent to let Walter in (the latter happened with Jesse). Tuco is very confrontational, so it's unlikely he'd have Walter sent away or killed without meeting him first. Walter's sudden appearance and demands would also fuel Tuco's curiosity.

Walter shows up at Tuco's place and demands that a thug let him in to talk to Tuco. The thug silently glares at Walter in the eye, perhaps in an attempt at intimidation, but when Walter doesn't show weakness, he's let in. This is something he keeps throughout the meeting with Tuco, not showing fear despite knowing that the individual is very violent and erratic. That's because Walter knows that he can't show weakness in this criminal world if

he wants a shot at respect. On top of that, there's his pride that fuels this desire to show dominance.

After Tuco's men search Walter, who's acting like he just wants to sell, they hand Walter's bag to Tuco, thinking it's meth, as planned. Walter comes in and states his demands, more dollars than Jesse asked for, for the meth Tuco stole, as well as extra money for Jesse's recovery. Walter is obviously being met with mockery by Tuco. Walter then grabs one crystal of fulminated mercury and throws it across the room, causing an explosion. Walter obviously had to ensure no one got actually hurt by the explosion, especially himself or Tuco, and given how powerful the explosion winds up being, a slight mistake could have been fatal. It's likely that Walter took into consideration factors like distance, an estimation of the explosion, and possible obstacles that would shield against it, all in the short time he was in the room, and he had to aim properly on top of that. Walter takes advantage of the shock to grab the whole bag, so as to make sure the thugs don't just shoot him for fear that his crystals might explode. Tuco gives Walter the money and agrees to do business with him on Walter's terms. This is convenient for Tuco both because Walter has proven to be dangerous and unpredictable and because, as mentioned, his meth sells very well. This event starts the legend of Heisenberg and gives Walter his first real influence and reputation. And now, despite the setback, not only did Walter solve the feud, but his meth business is in its best form yet, having now a proper distributor. This is Walter's first planned confrontation with a criminal. ***[Long-Term Strategy + Information Gathering + Determination + Planning Invincibility + Thinking: Analytical, Lateral/Horizontal, Linear/Vertical, Creative, Connective + Crystallized Intelligence, Crystallized Methods + Short-Term Planning, Planning Coverage, Planning Preparation, Planning Versatility, Planning Accuracy + Knowledge, Knowledge Application, Academics + Logical Prediction + Psychological Insight + Risk Calculation + Emotional Facilitation + Composure, Emotional Management + Social Awareness, Social Cognition, Social Integration, Social Skills + Emotional Engagement + Acting Skills, Verbal Deception + Misdirection, Strategic Deception + Planning Process + Visual-Spatial Index, Processing Speed Index, Bodily-Kinesthetic Intelligence + Planning Accuracy + Planning Invincibility, Tactics + Planning Aim + Logical Manipulation, Intimidation + Influence Building,***

***Aura** + **Strategy Control, Strategy Building, Strategy Alignment** + **Fluid Intelligence, Fluid Reasoning Index**]*

S1E7 —

Walter promised Tuco two pounds of meth, but Jesse tells him that he has no way of getting enough of a certain ingredient for two pounds every week. Walter goes out and promises four pounds to Tuco, despite being already in debt. Once again, keep in mind Tuco's personality and reputation. Walter asks for him to give him two pounds' worth of money after not even managing to bring him one, and shows no fear. This is because he has thought of another way to make meth, using another ingredient, methylamine, instead of investigating on how to get more of the missing ingredient, thinking this would be more convenient. Jesse is intimidated by the difficulty of getting new material. Walter makes physical contact with him and promises that this is the start of a new life. He then asks Jesse if he wants it to be a life of fear and lack of self-confidence. He follows this up by telling Jesse that only he can get the items, also deliberately using the word "us" to establish more of a connection and extend the stakes in Jesse's mind to more than just himself. This gets Jesse to comply. *[**Composure** + **Thinking: Lateral/Horizontal, Creative, Critical, Connective** + **Strategy Adaptability** + **Knowledge, Academics** + **Psychological Manipulation, Direct Manipulation, Individual Manipulation, Persuasion, Manipulation Methods (Flattery)** + **Emotional Facilitation** + **Fluid Intelligence, Crystallized Intelligence**]*

Note: While Walter's arguments get the job done, they don't particularly resonate with Jesse. However, this kind of manipulation is something that a more experienced Walter will be able to use to much greater effect, and that is just beginning here.

When Walter is negotiating with Tuco, the latter wants the extra money to be returned with 25% interest. Walter calculates in his head how much meth he'd need to return him.

- ➔ Tuco brought a total of 70,000 dollars, expecting two pounds of meth.
- ➔ This means that Walter's 0.5 pounds are worth 17,500, and one pound is worth 35,000.

- ➔ This means that Tuco is giving Walter: 70,000 - 17,500 = 52,500 extra dollars.
- ➔ Walter first calculates how much money he now owes Tuco: 52,500 * 1.25 = 65,625.
- ➔ Then he calculates how much meth that translates to: 65,625 / 35,000 = 1.875 pounds.
- ➔ Walter does all of this math in a couple of seconds.

[Logical-Mathematical Intelligence, Processing Speed Index, Working Memory Index (mental math requires strong working memory)]

To get the opportunity for an intensive meth-cooking session while keeping Skyler from asking questions, Walter tells her that he's going to a Navajo sweat lodge as a means of alternative medicine. The lie builds on information that Skyler already has, as she was the one who suggested alternative medicine on another occasion, and his decision to try it continues the narrative that he's starting to follow her advice, as he did for the group therapy. On top of that, it makes sense for Walter to want to try a new experience at that stage in life, and that might also be beneficial, too. The lie accurately assesses both Skyler's thoughts and the hypothetical thoughts Walter himself could've had in that situation that would've facilitated the narrative. ***[Strategy Orchestration, Strategy Logistics, Strategy Building, Strategy Execution, Tactics, Tactical Potency + Information Control + Verbal Deception, Acting Skills, Misdirection, Concealment + Thinking: Convergent, Analytical + Psychological Insight]***

Jesse has gotten all the items except the methylamine, which is locked up. Having already spent all his budget on the other items, he doesn't have the money to hire someone to steal it. As he's still being told this, Walter is already adapting by looking through old objects in Jesse's garage. From these objects, Walter obtains thermite, a powder that was able to destroy the biggest artillery gun in the world during World War II, as Walter recalls from his general knowledge. Walter plans to use thermite to destroy the lock that protects the methylamine and steal it. This later succeeds. ***[Processing Speed Index + Knowledge, Knowledge Application, Crystallized Methods + Strategy Adaptability, Short-Term Planning, Formulation Speed, Resource Efficiency, Tactics + Planning Aim + Thinking: Linear/Vertical, Lateral/Horizontal, Connective, Fast + Fluid Intelligence, Crystallized Intelligence]***

While Walter and Jesse are setting up all the items in Jesse's basement, Jesse hears someone entering his house. Walter immediately realizes that Jesse scheduled an open house, recalling that he's trying to sell his house. ***[Abductive Reasoning, Connecting the Dots, Thinking: Associative, Connective, Fast]***

Season 2 Feats



S2E1 —

Walter quickly calculates the money he'd need to leave his family for a comfortable life and how many meth trades would be needed to reach that sum.

- ➔ A good state college, accounting for inflation, is 45,000 dollars a year. Walter needs to provide for 4 years and two kids. 45,000 * 2 * 4 = 360,000 dollars.

- ➔ The remaining mortgage for the home is 107,000 dollars; home equity line is 30,000. That's a total of 137,000 dollars.
- ➔ The approximate cost of living for Skyler and the children is 2,000 dollars a month, so for ten years it's: 2,000 * 12 * 10 = 240,000.
- ➔ Everything combined is: 360,000 + 137,000 + 240,000 = 737,000 dollars.
- ➔ The weekly income from dealing with Tuco is 70,000 dollars, which means: 737,000 / 70,000 = 10.5 weeks of drug manufacturing.

[Logical-Mathematical Intelligence, Processing Speed Index, Working Memory Index]

After Tuco kills one of his men in a fit of aggression, Walter and Jesse think he might want to kill them to get rid of witnesses. Walter gets home and he sees a car parked by the walkway near his home, leaving as soon as he gets out of his. He figures it could be one of Tuco's men and decides to stay up at night to guard his home in case anyone comes again. When Skyler realizes this, he tells her that he was feeling ill and didn't want to wake her up by continuously getting in and out of bed. ***[Observation, Abductive Reasoning, Associative Thinking + Verbal Deception, Acting Skills, Misdirection, Concealment]***

Immediately after this, Walter starts planning to kill Tuco. He gets his hands on castor beans, from which he wants to process ricin, an extremely deadly poison that is easy to overlook during autopsies, making it look like the death was caused by natural causes. As for the means of delivery, Walter and Jesse think of presenting the ricin as the product of a new meth formula they've been developing, knowing that Tuco snorts anything without a second thought. ***[Preparation Process, Resource Efficiency, Counteraction + Knowledge, Crystallized Methods + Planning Coverage + Thinking: Divergent, Convergent, Analytical, Creative, Connective (w/ their knowledge on Tuco) + Short-Term Planning, Planning Accuracy + Psychological Insight + Crystallized Intelligence]***

S2E2 —

Tuco kidnapped Walter and Jesse after his headquarters in Albuquerque were raided following the retrieval of the man Tuco killed. Tuco thinks that his cousin Gonzo, who was supposed to dispose of the corpse, snitched on him. Walter and Jesse know that Gonzo died as well, but they thought that it was Tuco who killed

him. When they find out from Tuco that he thinks that Gonzo is a spy and that he's still alive, Walter is wise enough to act as if he and Jesse also think Gonzo is still alive, and more specifically, he feigns empathy at the supposed betrayal, having seen how much that affected Tuco, so as to keep his trust. Keep in mind that Tuco is very quick to anger and is currently in an agitated state, meaning that Walter had to be careful with his tone and words when communicating with him. ***[Verbal Deception, Acting Skills, Concealment + Social Cognition, Emotional Perception, Psychological Profiling + Strategy Control, Tactics, Tactical Synergy + Psychological Insight, Emotional Understanding + Social Skills + Fluid Intelligence]***

Jesse snorts at something Tuco says, causing Tuco to decide to kill him. Walter talks Tuco out of doing that by saying that Jesse is needed as a partner and that without Jesse, Walter won't work for Tuco. ***[Persuasion, Logical Manipulation]***

When the TV mentions the death of Gonzo as Tuco is cooking, Walter immediately changes channel, fearing that should Tuco learn of Gonzo's death, he would jump to the conclusion that Walter and Jesse were the ones to snitch. ***[Short-Term Strategy, Strategy Foresight + Foresight, Anticipation]***

Tuco makes Walter and Jesse food. While he's not looking, Walter slips the ricin into Tuco's burrito. However, this fails because Tuco's uncle Hector notices this and ends up tossing the burrito to the ground with a lot of effort. Hector is paraplegic, unable to talk or walk, and he has been acting like he's not lucid, so Walter couldn't have accounted for him. Hector proceeds to communicate through his bell that he doesn't trust Walter and Jesse. Walter tries to argue that Hector's judgment can't be trusted and that he probably has dementia, but Tuco's attachment is too strong for him to buy it. Tuco takes them outside, holding Jesse at gunpoint and demanding that Walter tell him what he did to anger Hector. In his panic, Jesse grabs a brick. Walter sees that and to distract Tuco, he admits that he tried to poison him, proceeding to insult him. He does this despite Tuco's known violence and aggressiveness and the fact that he's holding a gun, also engaging with his anger to push through the likely fear he's feeling. ***[Strategy Adaptability, Strategy Control + Verbal Deception, Sophistry + Observation + Formulation Speed, Improvisation, Tactics, Tactical Synergy + Emotional Inducement + Composure, Emotional Management, Emotional Engagement]***

S2E3 —

➢ Fugue State Plan

Hank, who was on Walter's trail, ended up killing Tuco. Walter and Jesse left before Hank could see them.
The current situation is that no one has seen Walter or Jesse in days, putting them both in a tough situation. Despite the incredibly dire circumstances, that being that they're in the middle of nowhere, that Walter has disappeared from his family without an explanation, that Hank is after Jesse, and that they just went through a traumatic day, Walter keeps calm, and within a few hours at most, he comes up with a plan to reintegrate himself and Jesse into society and return to a situation comparable to before Tuco, which he explains to Jesse. This requires finding excuses for both disappearances, and in his specific case, one that can be acceptable for his family.
These are the situations each is in and the resources Walter can count on:

- ➔ Jesse is in the worst spot, as his car was at Tuco's. This notion leads to Walter's anticipation that the police will be on the lookout for Jesse, which will play into his plan later.
- ➔ Walter likely also figured out that Hank was looking for Jesse, since Hank was alone and obviously not on duty and the only traceable thing on the scene was Jesse's car; this would give more incentive for giving Jesse an alibi and also to instruct him to take his ride several hours after Walter's, so as to avoid Hank or anyone else making a connection between the two disappearances.
- ➔ Jesse has several friends that he can count on to build his alibi and get rid of the meth lab in his basement.
- ➔ As for Walter, he can count on the state of his health, both physical and mental, to find the perfect excuse.

The plan for Jesse's return is as follows:

- ➔ Jesse gets home and dismantles the lab with the help of a trusted friend. Walter knows that the police can't have gotten in since they need probable cause for that.

- ➔ Jesse has the friend make a phone call to the police and give them probable cause to get Jesse at his new position, an apartment complex where Jesse can hire a hooker for the next step.
- ➔ Jesse pays the hooker to lie to the police and say that she and Jesse had spent the last three days partying in one of the apartments. In this constructed narrative, Jesse wouldn't have been aware of his car's disappearance, with the implication being that it got stolen. Another part of the story is that the phone was inside the car, giving an explanation for Jesse not answering. While the phone wasn't found in the car, it would be plausible for the theoretical thief to have taken it away. The lie might not hold up to an officer convinced that Jesse was at Tuco's, in this case, Hank, but the crux of the plan is that as long as the police don't have proof that Jesse's story is false, they can't arrest him.
- ➔ To have Jesse communicate with him during this time, either to update him about the effectiveness of the plan or possibly for any emergency that might arise, Walter instructed Jesse to call from a payphone in the middle of nowhere, so as for the call to be untraceable.
- ➔ *I have no real proof for this, so we're going into speculative territory, but I think it's likely that Walter predicted Hector wouldn't talk to the DEA about Jesse having been at Tuco's. This is because it would be a fairly big factor to overlook in such an otherwise well-crafted plan. Walter could've picked up on Tuco's hatred for snitches, something he may have gotten from Hector. Aside from that, the petty feud between criminals and cops is well-known. On top of that, the fact that Hank killed Tuco could've added to a reluctance to talk. Walter wouldn't have a guarantee that Hector wouldn't talk, but it would still be something that he considered. This would also explain why he wouldn't have told Jesse about the possibility, since Jesse already wasn't sure about the plan, and laying such a big variable on him would only worsen the situation.*

As for Walter himself, his strategy is to fake having had a fugue state. He gets to Albuquerque several hours before Jesse and strips himself naked inside a shop, so as to get across that he's unwell mentally and make sure he ends up in a hospital. Of course, doing this must've meant overcoming embarrassment. In the hospital, Walter's acting fools all kinds of

professional doctors as well as his family. The fugue state in particular is a lie that holds up well since it can be caused by all kinds of things, and in Walter's specific situation, it could be because of the chemotherapy he's going through, as he suggests to the medics. The doctors also find Walter to be dehydrated, which obviously makes his condition seem more real and serious. This means that after having been through a traumatic experience, walking through the desert, and being on a multiple-hours long car journey, he consciously didn't get his hands on any water despite the thirst he must've been feeling. His hope is to be discharged as soon as possible, but the doctors keep him in for a psychiatric evaluation. Taking the opportunity, Walter thinks of a way to get himself discharged by using the information already given to the doctors. He asks about patient confidentiality, something that he'd for sure do if he was about to reveal the reason to have feigned something as big as a fugue state, and tells the psychiatrist that there was no fugue state at all and that he simply escaped out of frustration, to have some time alone. When questioned about this, he channels his actual frustrations and serious problems in life to give a plausible explanation, wording it in a way that would make the psychiatrist feel bad to try to dismiss it, just in case he gets any suspicions.

All of this gets Walter and Jesse into a position comparable to before Tuco and almost back on track for continuing the Meth-Cooking Strategy, keeping all the sensitive information that arose from the situation from leaking and hurting his and Jesse's position, and also reintegrates Walter into his family. This is Walter's first complex plan, and it works perfectly. ***[Emotional Management, Composure, Mental Fortitude, Perseverance + Formulation Speed, Strategy Vision, Preparation Process + Anticipation + Critical Thinking, Observation, Abductive Reasoning + Planning Invincibility, Strategy Fortitude + Resource Efficiency + Planning Process + Logical Prediction + Knowledge + Planning Coverage + Planning Invincibility + Planning Process + Planning Contingency + Planning Coverage, Tactics + (Intuitive Prediction + Psychological Profiling, Cold Reading, Emotional Perception + Emotional Understanding + Social Awareness + Risk Calculation + Emotional Understanding ~ maybe) + Short-Term Planning, Planning Aim, Strategy Execution, Strategy Building, Tactics + Emotional Management + Verbal & Non-Verbal Deception, Acting Skills, Strategic Deception + Strategy Fortitude, Strategy Logistics, Strategy Efficiency + Thinking: Divergent, Convergent, Analytical, Critical, Creative,***

***Lateral/Horizontal, Linear/Vertical, Holistic, Connective, Fast** + **Strategy Logistics, Strategy Building, Planning Accuracy** + **Information Control** + **Verbal & Non-Verbal Deception, Acting Skills, Strategic Deception** + **Strategy Adaptability, Strategy Control, Strategy Shielding, Tactics** + **Emotional Engagement** + **Psychological Manipulation, Direct Manipulation, Manipulation Methods (Gaslighting, Scapegoating), Sophistry** + **Planning Aim, Strategy Effectiveness, Strategy Alignment** + **Information Control** + **Relationship Management** + **Fluid Intelligence, Fluid Reasoning Index** + **Crystallized Intelligence**]*

S2E4 —

Walter decides to wait before restarting to cook meth because he realizes that he needs to mend the situation with his family, specifically with Skyler whom he understands would get worried at the littlest disappearance. On top of that, he needs to reinstate his relationship with her since she found out that he has a second cell phone. *[**Strategy Vision** + **Critical Thinking** + **Emotional Understanding** + **Fluid Intelligence**]*

Walter's attempt at regaining Skyler's trust begins by cooking her and Walter Junior breakfast and acting cheerful, so as to tempt her with the image of a happy family life. He also gives her an explanation for the second cell phone, saying that the ring she heard came from the medicine alarm. This would've worked had Skyler not been as nagged by the situation as she is. Since it doesn't work, Walter realizes that the issue is deeper and this prompts him to change up his tactics later. *[**Tactics** + **Emotional Manipulation, Manipulation Methods (Love Bombing)** + **Misdirection, Fabrication** + **Emotional Understanding** + **Adaptability**]*

Walter confronts Skyler about her disappearing while he was talking to her. He reuses an old tactic by saying he was thinking of going again to the support group, rewarding her for her idea, and then connects this to the broader idea of talking as a means to feel better to get her to open up to him, but this doesn't work either. It does, however, achieve that now Walter has a possible excuse for disappearing in the future. Later, he apologizes to her about the things he realized are bugging her, that being mainly his lack of communication, putting up the act of a truly repentant man. He shows vulnerability and attempts to reach for her with a hand to signal his

need for her affection. This has an effect on her, but she still doesn't unlock, so Walter changes his approach once again and starts playing the victim, looking desperate and making her seem like she's being bad to him by not accepting his apologies and continued attempts at reinstating a relationship with the woman he's showing so much love towards, using the affection she's bound to feel towards him despite all. Walter then builds another tactic where he acts like he thinks she's accusing him of cheating on her, which allows him to be completely truthful when denying it. All of this gets Skyler to break and show emotions, which she has avoided doing to cut him off. When she asks him what he's hiding, he still denies that he's hiding anything, and she leaves. The result of all this is that now she feels less comfortable using her own manipulative tactics. While the whole thing wasn't fully successful, Skyler's behavior is subtly different the next episode, meaning Walter's manipulation had some effect. ***[Tactics + Emotional Manipulation, Psychological Manipulation, Individual Manipulation + Tactical Potency + Emotional Manipulation + Emotional Understanding + Adaptability + Emotional Manipulation, Manipulation Methods (Gaslighting, Guilt Tripping), Verbal Deception, Acting Skills + Psychological Warfare + Tactical Potency]***

S2E5 —

Walter smells cigarette on Skyler. ***[Sensory Perception]***

After Walter and Jesse begin selling meth on the streets through Jesse's friends, one of them gets robbed. When Jesse gives Walter his share, he immediately realizes that there's something off from his calculations, and Jesse admits what happened. Walter wants Jesse to find and punish the thief because he aims to have a reputation to avoid being robbed again, as he realizes that if they show weakness in the world of drug dealing, people will want to take advantage of that. ***[Logical-Mathematical Intelligence + Strategy Shielding + Influence Building + Social Awareness, Social Cognition, Psychological Insight + Fluid Intelligence]***

S2E6 —

Gretchen, Elliot's wife and Walter's ex-girlfriend, tries to reach Walter, but since his phone is disconnected, she calls his home number where Skyler picks up. Walter

had dissuaded Skyler from personally thanking Elliot and Gretchen for paying for the cancer treatment, but hearing Gretchen personally, Skyler couldn't resist thanking her and even invited her to their home. When Walter arrives, he's surprised to see her there, but he takes the excuse that he wants to walk her to her car to try and convince her to talk before saying anything to anyone. When they meet at a restaurant, the conversation devolves, and Walter ends up letting out the anger he had pent up over the years towards her and Elliot for using his research to make millions. Walter comes home, and Skyler comes to talk to him. She tells him that Gretchen called, with a dismayed expression. It would be easy to assume from this, after the falling out Walter had with Gretchen, that she told Skyler about his lie, but he keeps a poker face until he knows more. Skyler tells Walter that Gretchen said she and Elliot can't continue to pay for the treatment. Skyler also figured out that Walter had talked to Gretchen. Walter comes up with an explanation using the information that Skyler already has. Walter lies to her by telling her that he went to meet Elliot and Gretchen and that they pretty much told him that they're broke. His hiding it first also gives Skyler a feeling of relief when she feels like he's telling her the truth for once. What's elaborate about this lie is how he puts it. He has an explanation for why Gretchen wouldn't have told Skyler this in person, that being pride. To make his lie more credible, he describes them as not telling him directly about their supposed lack of money and beating around the bush during the conversation. Walter specifies that what he's telling Skyler is just what he picked up during the conversation, so as to have more wiggle room should she find out that they're not broke. This also makes her unlikely to confront them about the whole situation since she'd be using unverified information. Of course, the fact that Walter used the pride explanation means Skyler would be unlikely to do it in the first place since she'd be putting Elliot and Gretchen in an embarrassing spot, which she wouldn't want to do. Walter also gives examples of other businesses that failed in that period, using the notion that Skyler would have that the economy is in a bad state. He manages to perfectly describe how they would act in that situation. She buys this completely, and so she doesn't find out that he has been lying. On top of that, the fact that the payment is not covered anymore is something Walter can exploit since it's an issue that is bound to unite the family in order to get through it, note how he deliberately says that "*We* will get through it". It's likely that this was a factor in bringing Skyler back to him, as well as the aforementioned fact that she feels like he's revealed a secret to her. ***[Tactics, Strategy Shielding** + **Improvisation, Tactics, Formulation Speed** + **Acting Skills** + **Tactics** + **Formulation Speed, Strategy Control** + **Thinking: Analytical, Creative,***

Connective, Convergent, Fast + Verbal Deception, Acting Skills + Tactics, Strategy + Emotional Manipulation, Indirect Manipulation + Tactics, Strategy Logistics + Fabrication, Sophistry + Tactics, Strategy Adaptability, Strategy Resilience + Psychological Manipulation, Indirect Manipulation + Social Awareness + Tactics + Social Awareness, Psychological Insight + Thinking: Critical, Divergent, Connective, Abstract + Information Control + Strategy Effectiveness + Tactics, Strategy Alignment + Emotional Understanding, Psychological Insight + Emotional Manipulation, Direct Manipulation + Crystallized Intelligence]

S2E7 —

Walter hasn't been able to reach Jesse on the phone. He shows up at his house and starts pounding on the door. He knows Jesse is home because he saw his car still outside. He says this outright so that Jesse knows that Walter has confirmation of the fact that he's home and is less likely to continue ignoring Walter. *[Observation, Inductive Reasoning + Tactics + Psychological Manipulation]*

Jesse is still distraught by the fact that after he went to confront the thief who stole his meth, he ended up witnessing the man's wife killing him by crushing his head with an ATM, Walter takes his place in collecting the money. When he meets with Jesse's friends, the dealers, they act strangely by reassuring Walter that all the money is there and that they know who they're working for. From this, Walter realizes that they might've heard about what happened with the ATM and asks them about it. As it turns out, they think it was Jesse who did it, as does everyone in town. This is good because everyone is paying with no fuss now out of fear. Walter takes the opportunity and acts as if this is what actually happened to make the rumor spread, retain its advantages and increase his and Jesse's reputation. *[Emotional Perception + Abductive Reasoning + Creative Thinking, Critical Thinking, Convergent Thinking + Tactics, Strategy Efficiency, Strategy Logistics + Verbal & Non-Verbal Deception, Acting Skills, Misdirection + Information Control + Influence Building, Social Integration, Social Cognition + Fluid Intelligence]*

Walter goes to Jesse's again and tells him that he wants to expand the reach of their operation, for example, by getting sub-dealers. Jesse is not sure about this because it would anger the dealers who are currently in those other territories.

Walter proceeds by telling Jesse that everyone thinks he's a killer and explains to him the reasoning for wanting people to think this, through a blowfish metaphor. This gets Jesse excited about "being a blowfish" and convinces him to follow Walter's plan. To put into perspective the emotional impact Walter has, Jesse had just witnessed a brutal murder after being sent by Walter to threaten some junkies who stole their meth. He saw a wife crashing his husband's head by letting an ATM machine fall on it, and both the sound and sight of this left a great impact on him. For this reason, he was unwilling to continue working with Walter and spent his entire day smoking weed in his apartment. Even opening the door took him several minutes, and it's likely he wouldn't even have done it if not to keep Walter from bothering Jane who was dealing with him. Nothing seems to convince him to take part in Walter's plan to expand their territory, until Walter gets the idea to use the metaphor of the blowfish. This gets across the image of a harmless fish who can be someone "no one messes with" through an illusion, by simply puffing up. This likely plays on Jesse's imaginative mind on top of getting across Walter's meaning better than his previous attempts. The metaphor, together with Walter's enthusiastic delivery, are enough to not only get Jesse out of his unresponsive and traumatized state, but to highly motivate him towards the plan for a period that lasts until Combo's death, even filling him with high levels of confidence. The contrast here is very high which makes this an impressive feat in my eyes. ***[Tactics, Strategy Vision + Direct Manipulation, Persuasion + Emotional Facilitation, Leadership + Tactics, Tactical Potency, Strategy Building]***

Walter plans to raise the prices once he and Jesse corner the market, as per common economic tactics. ***[Tactics, Strategy Vision + Knowledge, Crystallized Intelligence]***

S2E8 —

Hank has been traumatized by the death of three agents. Walter talks to him about it and channels his feelings and experiences in life to give him a speech about overcoming fear and facing the world again. He mentions how he came to realize that fear is the worst enemy, the thing that holds people back. ***[Emotional Engagement + Existential Intelligence + Persuasion, Positive Manipulation + Metacognition, Abstract Thinking + Emotional Realization, Self-Awareness]***

One of the dealers, Badger, got busted by the police and is facing prison. He hires the criminal lawyer Saul Goodman for his defense. Walter acts as Badger's uncle when he goes to meet Saul. When Saul mentions the DEA, Walter questions him about it and it turns out that the DEA has proposed a deal to Badger, since they want to get the infamous cook, Heisenberg, Walter's alter ego. Walter gives arguments that a worried uncle would give in order to convince Saul not to have Badger accept the deal. When this doesn't work, he tries to bribe him. This doesn't work either, so he and Jesse kidnap Saul and threaten him to make him find another way. ***[Verbal Deception, Acting Skills + Information Gathering + Acting Skills, Sophistry + Persuasion + Intimidation, Coercion]***

Saul plans to use a contact of his, a certain Jimmy In-n'-Out, who's willing to act as Heisenberg and go to prison so that Badger can take the deal and be freed. After the plan is set, Jesse is doubtful about the existence of Jimmy, a person who'd willingly go to prison. Walter replies by saying that "there's more than one kind of prison", implying that he thinks that Jimmy feels trapped in the outside world. ***[Emotional Understanding, Hot Reading, Psychological Profiling]***

Badger sits down next to the wrong bald middle-aged guy, which could mess up the entire thing. Walter adapts by driving in front of the DEA's car and acting like he has cluelessly recognized Hank, wanting to ask him how he's doing, in order to block the view just long enough for Jesse to walk past Badger and tell him to change bench. This is in line with Hank's view of Walter, which he exploits. For this to work, Walter had to have had at least a vague idea of how much time Jesse would take to warn Badger, therefore visualizing the street and Jesse's walking speed to some extent. ***[Thinking: Creative, Divergent, Fast + Improvisation, Adaptability, Tactics, Tactical Potency, Formulation Speed + Verbal & Non-Verbal Deception, Acting Skills + Psychological Insight + Strategy Fortitude + Visual-Spatial Index]***

S2E9 —

Walter thinks that he might only have a few weeks to live, and he hasn't put away nearly enough money for his family. His solution is to have an intensive cooking session, possibly several days long. The lie he comes up with to disappear without raising suspicion is that he's going to see his mother. Of course, there's no way

Skyler's gonna say no to that. Walter also uses the fact that he has little rapport with his mother, and neither he nor Skyler communicate much with her. It's even implied that Walter's mother and Skyler don't go along very well. This makes it unlikely for Skyler to call her and find out Walter hasn't really been to her. ***[Strategy Shielding, Strategy Control + Thinking: Analytical, Divergent, Connective + Information Control + Short-Term Strategy, Strategy Fortitude, Strategy Alignment, Strategy Shielding]***

To convince Jesse to cook for four days straight, Walter tells him that the methylamine is going bad, taking advantage of Jesse's ignorance of chemistry and Walter's authority when it comes to that subject. The alternative to going along with Walter would be stealing another barrel, so Jesse accepts. ***[Tactics, Strategy Orchestration, Strategy Logistics + Verbal Deception, Acting Skills, Logical Manipulation, Fabrication, Sophistry]***

Walter never uses his phone for anything related to his criminal activities because he has to assume that Skyler checks his phone records just in case. ***[Strategy Resilience + Foresight]***

In a few seconds, Walter calculates the money he and Jesse will get from the meth they cooked

- ➔ The amount of meth cooked was 41.8 pounds, which he rounds up to 42 pounds. One pound sells at 40,000 dollars, which amounts to 1,680,000 dollars total.
- ➔ The distribution charges have been established to be 20%. 1,680,000 * 0.8 = 1,344,000.
- ➔ Divided by two: 1,344,000 / 2 = 672,000 dollars each.
- ➔ These calculations are done in a few seconds.

[Logical-Mathematical Intelligence, Processing Speed Index, Working Memory Index]

Jesse leaves the keys in the ignition for two days, which kills the RV's battery. All the conventional methods fail. Walter ends up thinking of using the copper and zinc they can get from common items to improvise a battery with which to power the RV. He builds a few and successfully gets the RV started. ***[Thinking: Divergent, Convergent, Critical, Lateral/Horizontal, Creative, Connective +***

Improvisation, Adaptability + Knowledge, Knowledge Application, Crystallized Intelligence, Fluid Intelligence]

S2E10 —

Walter is at a store. He notices a shopping cart with some chemicals inside and realizes that the man buying them wants to cook meth, which is pretty much confirmed when the man arrives and looks the type. Walter gives him advice on what to buy and how to do it. Later, Walter thinks that he should be protecting his territory. He goes to the parking lot and meets back with the man, alongside another, more muscular man. He shows no fear at all and intimidates them away. ***[Observation, Inductive Reasoning + Cold Reading + Crystalized Intelligence, Experience + Tactics, Strategy Shielding + Emotional Management + Intimidation]***

S2E11 —

One of the dealers gets killed in a turf dispute. Saul recommends that Walter and Jesse find a new distributor and so he sets up a meeting with a kingpin. The meeting happens at a fast food restaurant, Los Pollos Hermanos, but no one shows up, and Walter ends up leaving. He calls Saul, who tells him that the meeting was a failure and that there's no second shot at working with the kingpin. But Walter goes back to Los Pollos Hermanos, expecting that maybe this kingpin might still be there. From a window reflection, Walter peeks at the manager, Gus Fring, and notices a subtle glance and facial expression that the man gives him. From this alone, from a blurry glance at a reflection, he picks up on Gus's thoughts and realizes that he's the kingpin. Supporting this is the fact that Gus could've had the opportunity to judge Walter and Jesse the entire time, as well as Gus's position as a successful businessman potentially granting him the assets he needs, which is likely why Walter decided to peek at Gus in the first place. Consider that Gus constantly lies to and successfully fools DEA agents, police, and all manner of businessmen in his public facade, and Walter is still able to read him. These thoughts happen in a few seconds, then Walter gets up and asks Gus for five minutes of his time. Throughout this, Walter continues reading Gus's body language and seeing through all his (very good, by the way) attempts at seeming

like an innocent restaurant owner who knows nothing of the meeting. Based on what he has heard and seen, Walter knows that Gus is a very careful man, so he patiently continues to talk to get him to eventually open up. This works, but Gus is reluctant to work with Walter because of Jesse. Walter convinces Gus through the value of his product and the fact that Gus won't ever have to interact with Jesse, getting Walter to work with him. ***[Intuition + Tactics + Observation + Emotional Perception + Abductive Reasoning + Cold Reading + Abductive Reasoning, Inductive Reasoning, Thinking: Critical, Linear/Vertical, Associative, Connective + Seeing Through People + Processing Speed Index + Emotional Perception, Seeing Through People + Hot Reading, Cold Reading, Psychological Profiling, Psychological Insight + Tactics + Persuasion + Social Skills, Social Integration, Influence Building + Fluid Intelligence]***

One of Gus's men gives Walter an appointment in an hour to bring him meth and makes it clear that if Walter doesn't show up then he'll never be able to make business with Gus again. He tries calling Jesse, but he doesn't answer. Walter goes to Jesse's house, but he doesn't answer at the door either, so Walter uses a heavy ornament he finds to break in. Jesse is unconscious due to drugs, but despite this, Walter manages to get him to say that the meth is under the sink. Walter goes there and doesn't initially find it, but then he notices that on the roof of the cabinet there's a bit made of a different material and realizes that the meth is there. Then, Skyler sends Walter a message saying that she's about to give birth. Walter has to choose to miss the birth of his baby, engaging with his desire to make money for her and his family, so that he can continue on his meth strategy. ***[Improvisation, Adaptability, Resource Efficiency + Information Gathering + Observation, Inductive Reasoning + Emotional Management, Mental Fortitude, Determination, Emotional Engagement + Strategy Execution, Strategy Logistics]***

S2E12 —

Walter correctly guesses that the drug Jesse used was heroin. It's possible he noticed the syringe on the bedside table in Jesse's room, but it's unlikely considering what hurry he was in. Otherwise, Walter guessed it based on the effects heroin has on a person. Walter had chosen not to tell him that he was the one to take the meth, keeping Jesse in the dark and making him panic and dread at the idea of having been robbed, as a way to punish him for his misbehavior. Then,

after learning about how much money Gus gave them for the meth, Jesse asks for his share, which Walter doesn't want to give him, saying that Jesse would be dead within a month due to his drug addiction, which is something that is heavily implied in the show. Jesse says that he's not taking anymore, but Walter doesn't believe him and asks him to pee in a cup so that he can test it, which Jesse refuses to do, confirming that he is lying. ***[Inductive Reasoning + Observation + Knowledge + Emotional Facilitation, Psychological Warfare + Logical Prediction + Seeing Through People + Intuition, Thinking: Critical + Tactics]***

Walter comes to Jesse's home to speak to him. He finds him in his bed with Jane and notices a used syringe, signaling that they used heroin again. Walter accidentally tips Jane over, which causes her to begin choking on her vomit when she starts throwing up in her sleep. Walter is clearly torn and distraught, but he fights against it and decides to let her die. This is for several reasons:

- ➔ Jane had blackmailed Walter to give Jesse his share of the money.
- ➔ Jane had been manipulating Jesse. This is bad for Walter because he wants to manipulate Jesse himself, so getting rid of her would help him regain control over him, and because he cares about him to some extent, a feeling that pushed him towards his decision.
- ➔ The aforementioned prediction about Jesse dying from an overdose still stands and is reinforced by the fact that they were already on heroin the very night they got the money. Walter knows that Jesse will never stop with his drugs as long as he's under Jane's influence because their addiction is something that connects them, and moreover, because of the grasp drugs have on people in general.

[Observation, Inductive Reasoning + Emotional Management, Impulse Control, Mental Fortitude + Decision Making, Thinking: Critical, Convergent, Linear/Vertical, Fast + Strategy Alignment + Relationship Management + Emotional Engagement + Anticipation + Emotional Understanding, Psychological Insight, Social Awareness + Crystallized Intelligence]

S2E13 —

Jesse calls Walter about Jane's death. Walter successfully acts as if he knows nothing about it and gets Jesse to calm down by reassuring him and telling him to

take a deep breath. He also instructs him to call Saul to dispose of the body. ***[Verbal Deception, Acting Skills + Emotional Facilitation]***

Walter finds Jesse's position through Saul. ***[Information Gathering (indirect) + Tactics]***

Note: I've seen a lot of people say that Walter could not even keep his secrets from his family, but that's not really true. By this point in time, Walter had successfully sold each one of his lies to Skyler and was on good terms with her. The only reason she gets suspicious again is that while under the effects of anesthesia, he accidentally mentions the second cell phone again, making her realize that he had been lying to her about it. This is not something Walter could've anticipated or prevented in any way.

Season 3 Feats



S3E1 —

Skyler is making Walter move out. Hank is helping him with the baggage because Walter can't do heavy lifting right after his surgery. One of the bags is the one containing Walter's half a million dollars. Hank notices it's heavy and is curious about it. Walter decides that the best way to hide it is to say the truth, which Hank obviously thinks is a joke, due to what he knows and thinks about Walter. ***[Thinking: Critical, Convergent, Lateral/Horizontal, Fast + Tactics + Concealment + Psychological Insight]***

Off the top of his head, Walter knows about at least the fifty worst plane crashes in history. ***[Knowledge, Long-Term Memory, Verbal Comprehension Index (verbally stored knowledge)]***

Walter tries to make Skyler question her position as just being punitive without hearing Walter's side, but she has information he didn't think she'd have, that being that she deduced he's making drugs, so it doesn't work. ***[Gaslighting]***

Note: Before someone tries to use the fact that Skyler was able to deduce Walter's second life as a point against him, keep in mind she had information that someone investigating Heisenberg wouldn't have, and anyway the process is the exact reverse than what someone presented with the Heisenberg case would have (Walter → drugs, not drugs → Walter).

S3E2 —

Walter gets pepper-sprayed after losing his temper with a police officer. Hank comes to meet him and Walter uses his already pitiful state to move him by saying that Skyler won't even let him see his own children, which could work to make Hank question Skyler, who can't tell anyone the truth (I'll elaborate on this just in a bit when it's more relevant), and possibly put pressure on her. ***[Tactics + Emotional Manipulation, Individual Manipulation, Direct Manipulation + Psychological Warfare]***

S3E3 —

➢ Break-in Plan

Walter decides he's going back to his house. He breaks into it, though obviously it's not a crime since it's still his property, and calmly stays in the living room. Skyler finds him and is furious. She tells him to go away, but he doesn't, so she threatens to call the police. He's not worried in the slightest and tells her to do it, which she does. While the police are coming, Walter Junior comes back home from school. It's likely Walter decided on this specific time partly because of this. This way, he can gain more support from his son while also using this for his scheme. Walter acts friendly, and like everything's alright, he asks Walter Junior about school, and offers him grilled cheese, all of this playing on the boy's desire to get his dad back and to have his life back to normal. This is not completely a deception, either, since Walter actually does want to be back for his son, a feeling that he channels into his scheme, alongside his anger towards the lack of control he's been having and the general desire to have his family back. When the police arrive, Walter Junior is shocked that Skyler called them on Walter. They question her, but he's not done anything illegal, so they can't take him away. Meanwhile, Walter continues acting like a good guy, taking care of his baby, talking to his son, and generally being really nice and polite. Walter Junior blames Skyler for everything when he's questioned, and Walter even acts understanding towards her to sell his nice-guy act even more. What's genius about all this is that there's an easy way Skyler could have had Walter arrested and taken out of her life, but Walter knows she's never going to tell the cops about his drug crimes. That's because it would completely destroy her life, and most importantly, that of her children. It would destroy their future and their view of their father. Walter knows that Skyler could never allow this, and this way he calls her bluff, a prediction on which the whole scheme hinges. The result is that, based on what's evident, Skyler appears to be in the wrong to everyone in the room, and Walter is allowed back home, thanks to his assessment of the situation. ***[Tactics, Planning Invincibility + Planning Coverage, Planning Intricacies, Tactics + Verbal & Non-Verbal Deception, Acting Skills, Emotional Manipulation, Individual Manipulation + Emotional Understanding, Emotional***

Facilitation, Relationship Management + Emotional Engagement + Planning Invincibility + Verbal & Non-Verbal Deception, Acting Skills, Misdirection, Psychological Manipulation, Indirect Manipulation + Risk Calculation, Planning Invincibility, Planning Coverage, Planning Accuracy, Planning Versatility + Emotional Understanding, Psychological Insight + Logical Prediction + Social Skills, Psychological Warfare + Information Control + Planning Aim, Tactical Potency, Strategy Alignment, Strategy Control + Thinking: Analytical, Critical, Convergent, Divergent, Horizontal/Linear, Vertical/Lateral, Creative + Crystallized Intelligence]

S3E4 —

After Skyler admits to Walter that she cheated on him with her boss Ted Beneke, he gets angry and goes to Ted to confront him. Saul has Walter picked up. From the fact that Saul knew where to find him, Walter realizes that his house is bugged.

- The first bit of this reasoning is a deduction: aside from Walter himself, only Skyler could've realistically known about Walter's intentions. This means that Saul had a way of gathering information he could've only gathered by hearing a conversation that happened in the house.
- The logical explanation Walter gives for this is that there are bugs in his house.
- As a bonus, finding Walter was a non-obvious anticipation that Saul made. Skyler hadn't anticipated Walter's intention from the conversation and was surprised. To connect Saul's knowledge to the conversation, Walter must've followed the same thought process Saul did.

[Deductive Reasoning + Abductive Reasoning + Thinking: Critical, Convergent, Associative, Linear/Vertical + Crystallized Intelligence]

S3E5 —

Walter has stopped working for Gus due to the effect his criminal life had on his family life. Gus wants Walter back and his strategy for getting him back is hiring Jesse as a cook. After finding out that Jesse is working for Gus and receiving what is said to be "his half" in cash, Walter sees through the strategy:

- ➔ Walter believes that Gus would never let a junkie work for him and that he wouldn't be content with having his product maintain "more or less" the same quality, so there must be a second end to that. This is only partially true because Jesse was doing his job well and Gus would've likely settled on him if his manipulation of Walter hadn't worked, but more generally speaking, Gus would've never agreed to work with Jesse if it wasn't for that second goal that Walter deduced.
- ➔ Based on the money Walter was given, he can infer the rest of the strategy.
- ➔ Walter realizes that Gus is using his pride to manipulate him and tries to deny it by giving an excuse. Gus sees through that and his strategy still works, but this shows how Walter is aware of his flaw even though he doesn't have much control over it.

[Psychological Insight + Deductive Reasoning + Inductive Reasoning + Abductive Reasoning + Emotional Realization, Self-Awareness + Thinking: Holistic, Analytical, Linear/Vertical + Crystallized Intelligence]

After getting to work with Gus again, Walter gives Jesse the half of the money, which initially gives Jesse a feeling of victory. Walter then tells Jesse that Gus has only been using him and also that he's in business again, which means Jesse isn't. He does this because he's angry at Jesse and wants to belittle him and, in a sort of way, emotionally punish him for having used his formula by himself. ***[Emotional Manipulation, Psychological Manipulation, Gaslighting + Emotional Engagement]***

S3E6 —

Hank has been investigating Jesse and now knows about the RV. He's at a dead end and remembers how Jesse has supposedly sold weed to Walter, so he calls him for information. After the call, Walter initially panics. Then he calls Jesse but he shuts the call immediately. This is because he knows that Hank is surveilling Jesse's house and for precaution, he decides against contacting Jesse directly, in case Hank bugged the house or tapped the phone line. He thinks of this within a few seconds despite being enormously stressed due to the situation. It's unclear how Walter knows that Hank is surveilling Jesse, but he might have asked Hank where he is during the bit of the call that was cut or simply guessed it. ***[Foresight, Trap Evasion (sort of) + Processing Speed Index + Stress Tolerance, Composure***

+ Thinking: Critical, Linear/Vertical, Fast + Fluid Intelligence, Crystallized Intelligence]

Walter contacts Badger, whose cousin currently has the RV, and tells him to get the RV ready to go. Walter wants to clean it and take it out to the middle of the desert to be burned. The cousin is initially reluctant to help when he learns that the DEA is involved, but Walter takes advantage of the man's panicked state to claim that "If I go down, we all go down" and gets him to help. *[Strategy Formulation, Strategy Building + Emotional Perception, Leadership + Logical Manipulation, Persuasion + Strategy Control]*

The cousin has a contact, Old Joe, who will destroy the RV. Walter takes the RV to Old Joe. Meanwhile, Badger tells Jesse about what happened and Jesse goes to Old Joe as well, leading Hank there as well. Jesse gets into the RV to confront Walter, who immediately realizes that Hank is there too. Old Joe tries to send Hank away by arguing that, since the RV is considered a domicile, a warrant is needed to search it, but Hank finds bullet holes under some tape that count as probable cause. Walter whispers to Jesse to ask how Hank knew about the bullet holes before taking off the tape to dismantle Hank's argument, as probable cause needs to be readily apparent. Hank doesn't give up and makes a call to get a warrant. Walter quickly thinks of a solution. He calls Saul to tell him to execute the plan: have Hank called to tell him that his wife Marie has been in an accident and that he should get to the hospital as soon as possible. Walter knows that the only think Hank could care about more than his case is his wife, so the plan works and Hank drives off immediately, saving the Meth-Cooking Strategy. *[Processing Speed Index + Deductive Reasoning + Tactics, Improvisation, Counteraction + Knowledge, Knowledge Application + Adaptability, Improvisation, Formulation Speed + Planning Versatility, Planning Accuracy + Emotional Understanding, Psychological Insight + Planning Aim + Emotional Manipulation, Indirect Manipulation + Strategy Control + Thinking: Connective, Critical, Lateral/Horizontal, Divergent, Convergent, Creative, Fast + Fluid Intelligence, Crystallized Intelligence]*

S3E7 —

The consequence of that last plan is that now Hank believes that Jesse somehow got ahold of his phone number and Marie's name. So then Hank goes to Jesse's house and beats him up. The result is that now Jesse wants to press charges, which could ruin Hank's life, and he's also planning to start cooking on his own with little care for being caught since he can always get a deal with the DEA to sell out Heisenberg. The only way to avoid either of those things is to get Jesse to be Walter's partner again, as that would give Jesse something to live for aside from bitter revenge. To achieve this, Walter starts by getting rid of his current partner, Gale, by giving him some wrong instructions, then acting like Gale was the one to mess it up and being really harsh about it. Then Walter complains to Gus about Gale and convinces him to let him have Jesse back. When Walter tells Jesse about the job opportunity, Jesse initially turns it down because he's still angry at Walter for having insulted him and his meth. Walter puts his pride aside and tells Jesse that his meth is as good as his, which eventually gets him to accept the offer. ***[Emotional Understanding, Emotional Realization, Psychological Insight + Tactics, Strategy Building, Strategy Control + Gaslighting, Smearing, Fabrication, Strategic Deception + Strategy Execution + Persuasion + Emotional Management + Emotional Manipulation + Strategy Effectiveness + Thinking: Analytical, Critical, Divergent, Linear/Vertical]***

S3E8 —

Hank has been attacked by Tuco's cousins and shot four times. Now he's in the hospital in critical condition. Marie is very worried for him and is taking her frustration out by criticizing the hospital. To calm her down, Walter gives a speech about his feelings when he was driving to his surgery, channeling them, as well as the esteem he holds Hank in and the guilt he's feeling for his condition, to reassure her. ***[Positive Manipulation + Emotional Engagement + Metacognition, Thinking: Connective, Abstract]***

Steve Gomez takes Walter to see one of the two cousins, Lionel, who Hank hospitalized. Walter only knows that the two who attacked Hank are members of the Cartel, he doesn't know yet that they're Tuco's cousins. When Lionel sees Walter, he gets off the hospital bed and tries to crawl towards him despite having no legs, looking very angry. Walter sees this and remembers about the cousins that Tuco mentioned back at his place. Perceiving the anger and determination in Lionel,

Walter realizes that the two attackers were said cousins because they'd be the only two Cartel members who would have a reason to be after Hank and Walter specifically as they're connected to Tuco's death. ***[Long-Term Memory + Emotional Perception + Abductive Reasoning + Thinking: Associative, Connective, Holistic, Analytical, Linear/Vertical]***

S3E9 —

Walter calculates Gus's earnings in under ten seconds while Jesse is talking, which would be a source of distraction.

- ➔ 200 pounds of manufactured meth every week. For three months: 200 * 4 * 3 = 2,400.
- ➔ 2,400 pounds * 40,000 dollars per pound sold = 96,000,000 dollars earned by Gus.

[Logical-Mathematical Intelligence, Processing-Speed Index, Working Memory Index, Multitasking]

Walter sees through Gus's strategy and confronts him about it.

- ➔ The latest information he got from Hank, who is now awake, is that he received a warning call before the attack.
- ➔ He connects this to his previous reasoning of the Twins being after him as well as Hank, and as a bonus, correctly guesses that he was their prime target, likely because the Twins' higher-ups wouldn't have let them attack a DEA agent and that rather someone else gave them the blessing for that.
- ➔ Walter then analyzes the direct consequences of the attack on Hank, those being that now both the American and Mexican governments are hitting hard against the Cartel and cutting off the meth coming from Mexico to the USA, which wouldn't have happened if not for the shootout, hence the phone call.
- ➔ The person who'd most greatly benefit from all of this, as well as protecting Walter by setting the Twins on Hank, is Gus, who has his own supply of meth in the USA.

Walter then, taking advantage of his deduction, tells Gus that he respects the strategy and that he would've done the same in that position to build a connection between them and set himself as Gus's peer. Walter uses this opportunity to ask Gus for a better payment. Aside from what I just mentioned, Gus is likely to accept

the request also because Walter having seen through the strategy gives him leverage in the situation. ***[Abductive Reasoning, Deductive Reasoning + Social Awareness, Social Cognition + Abductive Reasoning + Psychological Manipulation, Negotiation + Tactics + Tactical Potency + Logical Manipulation + Thinking: Connective, Analytical, Critical, Linear/Vertical, Holistic, Associative, Lateral/Horizontal + Crystallized Intelligence]***

S3E10 —

Walter realizes that a small amount of meth is missing. Later he correctly suspects that Jesse stole it. ***[Observation + Abductive Reasoning + Thinking: Analytical, Linear/Vertical, Holistic]***

S3E11 —

Walter can explain off the top of his head how memory works, despite biology not being his field. ***[Knowledge, Academics]***

S3E12 —

Skyler and Saul disagree on which activity to invest in to launder Walter's money. Saul wants to invest in a laser tag place, while Skyler thinks it would be better to buy the car wash Walter used to work at since it would make for a more believable story. After some back-and-forth, Walter eventually settles on the car wash option but uses the situation to his advantage first. He gives credit for Skyler's idea to make a believable story, but then says that there's a hole in that Walter is currently not living with Skyler, so it would be strange if he would buy a car wash just to give money to the family he's not currently part of. Walter promotes the idea that in order to make the story work, Skyler should let him get closer to the family. Despite her reluctance, he eventually negotiates for four days a week at the house and even his own keys, taking a big step in solving the family issue that arised. To think of this, Walter must've realized the leverage such a simple thing would have on Skyler, given her general meticulousness and specific attention to detail for this specific situation as it's a source of worry to her. ***[Tactics, Tactical Potency +***

Psychological Manipulation, Logical Manipulation + Gaslighting, Sophistry + Negotiation + Strategy Adaptability + Thinking: Convergent, Linear/Vertical, Critical, Associative + Psychological Insight, Emotional Understanding]

Jesse finds out that the people who killed Combo, the dealer who was murdered back in season 2 and Jesse's friend, did so by using an 11-year-old kid, and he wants to kill them for it. He asks for Walter to give him ricin, but Walter tells him it's a bad idea and tries to talk him out of it. When this doesn't work, Walter contacts Saul to find a solution and eventually comes up with the idea of having Jesse arrested for something minor before he acts out his plan, just long enough to make him change his mind. Saul accepts and tells Walter he'll call his PI, Mike Ehrmantraut, to do it. ***[Strategy Vision + Thinking: Divergent]***

Mike tells Walter that he won't go through because Gus would take issue with Jesse being arrested. Walter decides to settle the situation by having Jesse talk to Gus directly about it. The dealers end up promising not to use kids anymore, but Jesse doesn't seem satisfied. Walter can't contact him on the phone all day, and in the evening he sees on TV how the kid was murdered in a gang execution. From this, Jesse's lingering anger, likely reaction to the news, and his unavailability, Walter realizes that he intends to try to kill the dealers directly and speeds off to find him. Walter must've figured out the most likely place to find Jesse would be the area around where Combo was murdered and remembered the exact address, all while being stressed. Walter arrives, runs over the criminals, killing one and injuring the other, gets out of the car, and shoots the second dealer in the head. To do this, Walter went against his own morality and likely fear of angering Gus, just to save Jesse. He shows no fear or hesitation, only resolve. ***[Inductive Reasoning + Emotional Understanding + Abductive Reasoning + Anticipation, Logical Prediction + Long-Term Memory + Stress Tolerance, Cognitive Discipline + Emotional Management, Determination + Emotional Engagement + Composure + Thinking: Analytical, Connective, Linear/Vertical, Fast]***

S3E13 —

Gus is furious at what happened and Walter confronts him, showing no fear, even being confident. He remains calm during the meeting and gives his reasoning for having done what he did, explaining that he owed it to Jesse to save his life and

that now they will have nothing to do with one another. He tells Gus that Jesse has enough money for the rest of his life and has probably escaped far away to make it seem like it's pointless to chase him. Then he presents two options to Gus: the first is that he kills Walter and then uses his resources to try and kill Jesse as well, the second is that the whole situation is forgotten about and Walter continues cooking, which Walter argues would be much more convenient than the pointless first option. Gus agrees to let Walter cook again. ***[Emotional Management, Composure + Misdirection + Logical Manipulation, Negotiation + Thinking: Analytical, Convergent, Linear/Vertical + Fluid Intelligence, Crystallized Intelligence]***

Walter and Saul act as if the latter is taking the former to see the laser tag place for the money laundering question in case their car is bugged or in case they're being followed, which they are, so they can get to a safe place to talk and meet with Jesse. ***[Verbal & Non-Verbal Deception, Acting Skills, Misdirection, Strategic Deception + Foresight, Logical Prediction + Tactics]***

Walter is aware of Gus's strategy of using Gale to learn Walter's cooking methods and replace him and gives vague answers to slow down the process. Hypothesizing aside, he knows this because Gale asks questions about the cooking process and the man Gus placed to guard the lab listens in. Walter is also aware of the fact that he's only still alive because Gale isn't sure about his mastery over the method yet. ***[Abductive Reasoning + Anticipation, Logical Prediction + Tactics + Observation + Psychological Insight, Emotional Understanding + Thinking: Critical, Linear/Vertical, Holistic]***

Walter knows that the only way to avert Gus killing him is to keep his leverage and be the only chemist he has. To achieve this, he needs to kill Gale. Walter hasn't found any information about Gale and he knows he can't do much since he's being observed, so he asks Jesse to find Gale's address. Jesse isn't keen on the idea because he doesn't want to kill, but Walter convinces him to find him the address, saying that it's the only thing he has to do, and asking him to save his life like he saved his. ***[Strategy Vision, Counteraction + Information Gathering + Psychological Manipulation, Emotional Manipulation]***

Walter gets the address and is planning to kill Gale, but Victor tells Walter to go out of the lab due to a leak. Walter sees Mike and realizes that Gus has ordered him to kill him. Walter starts freaking out and offers to sell Jesse out. While the

fear might be genuine, he channels it into the solution he's improvising despite the incredibly stressful situation by showing himself to be terrified and desperate to the point of betraying his partner. He knows that from Mike's point of view, there'd be nothing to lose and everything to gain from letting Walter sell out Jesse, as that would mean taking care of months worth of searching while losing nothing since Mike can just kill Walter anyway and can believe that Walter thinking he has a chance to live if he sells out Jesse is just the delusion of a scared man, or in other words, Mike thinks that Walter's strategy is selling out Jesse. Strengthening this is Walter arguing that Jesse was always the real problem. Mike asks Walter to give him an address, but Walter says that Jesse moves around and that the only way to find him is by contacting him. So Mike lets Walter call Jesse just long enough to tell him that he's about to die unless Gale dies, setting Jesse to do kill him, as Walter understands that Jesse's loyalty, paired with the prospect of Walter dying, is an incentive strong enough for Jesse to go against his morality. All Walter has to do now is say Gale's address to reveal the enormous leverage he has and survive. This trick successfully fooled Mike Ehrmantraut, a very smart character in his own right. ***[Abductive Reasoning + Emotional Engagement + Improvisation, Adaptability, Formulation Speed + Stress Tolerance + Verbal & Non-Verbal Deception, Acting Skills, Misdirection, Strategic Deception + Strategy Fortitude, Strategy Logistics, Strategy Complexity, Strategy Efficiency + Psychological Insight + Persuasion + Strategy Shielding, Strategy Adaptability + Sophistry + Emotional Manipulation, Emotional Blackmail + Emotional Understanding, Psychological Insight + Strategy Effectiveness, Strategy Control, Counteraction + Thinking: Critical, Analytical, Divergent, Convergent, Linear/Vertical, Creative, Fast + Fluid Intelligence, Fluid Reasoning Index, Processing Speed Index, Crystallized Intelligence]***

Season 4 Feats



S4E1 —

Walter is sitting in front of Mike, who is holding a gun. Both are waiting for Victor to come back with news on Gale and Jesse. Walter manages to keep a blank face despite being under high amounts of stress. Victor arrives at the lab, holding Jesse at gunpoint. At first, Walter seems to think from this that Jesse failed, but once he notices Victor's anger and Jesse's shell-shocked expression, he starts looking more cautiously optimistic, though obviously he isn't completely relieved until he hears the confirmation that Gale is dead. ***[Composure, Stress Tolerance + Emotional Perception + Observation, Abductive Reasoning]***

After a while of waiting, Walter points out to Mike and Victor what time it is, and that they need to start cooking within ten minutes schedules, specifically mentioning that they're Gus's schedules, as he knows what effect that name and presence has on them, reinforcing the idea that even after all that happened, the best move for everyone involved would be for things to go back to what they were, also mentioning that Gus would be even angrier if he was to lose a batch of meth. ***[Tactics + Psychological Manipulation, Direct Manipulation + Logical Manipulation, Direct Manipulation, Negotiation]***

After Gus arrives, Walter tries to reason with him. First, he says that he cared about Gale and that he feels bad for what happened, but that he would shoot him again any time if Gus makes it Gale versus Jesse or Walter himself. Doing so, he pins the fault on Gus, claiming that Gus should've expected that Walter would take extreme measures to save himself. To say these things to Gus, even though the ultimate point of these moves is to save his life, it takes some guts, especially since Gus is acting very threateningly, not saying a word. Then Walter reinstates his point that Gus needs him and Jesse to cook. Even though Victor tried to counter that before by showing how he himself has learned the steps, Walter tries to belittle him by asking him questions about chemistry he knows he can't answer, making him look incompetent and topping that by also comparing him to a hamburger-flipping cook. When Victor says that he doesn't need to know those things and that it's just a recipe, Walter counters that by asking him what he would do if some unexpected problems popped up during the cooking. Walter continues his point by saying that if Gus kills him he has nothing and that if he kills Jesse he doesn't have him, that killing them would make the effort of building the lab useless, that it would lead to no income, to his business collapsing, and tops it off by saying that Gus is too smart to do that. Fueling this is Walter's desire to survive the situation. ***[Psychological Manipulation, Direct Manipulation, Gaslighting + Tactics + Composure, Stress Tolerance, Emotional Management + Logical Manipulation + Tactics, Tactical Potency, Strategy Control + Smearing, Sophistry, Moving the Goalpost + Tactics, Strategy Control + Logical Manipulation + Psychological Manipulation, Gaslighting + Emotional Engagement + Crystallized Intelligence, Fluid Intelligence]***

Note: Gus was planning to let Walter and Jesse live from the start, so Walter's manipulations didn't really have any effect, but they're still extremely valid and well-thought tactics.

Walter suspects that Gus will want to get rid of him and Jesse at the first opportunity. ***[Intuitive Prediction, Anticipation]***

S4E2 —

Walter contacts an illegal arms dealer to buy a gun for self-defense, as a precaution against Gus's supposed intentions to kill him. He gets an illegal weapon because it's harder to trace. ***[Information Gathering + Foresight + Strategy Foresight, Strategy Resilience]***

Walter learns how to quick-draw. ***[Bodily-Kinesthetic Intelligence]***

Walter wants to turn Mike against Gus and to his side. To do this:

- ➔ He first approaches Mike at a bar and offers him a drink to instill a friendly atmosphere.
- ➔ He gives the excuse of only acting against Gus due to self-defense and loyalty to Jesse.
- ➔ Then he also gives Mike an "excuse" so as to make it clear that he's not angry at him, by saying that he thinks Mike was only following orders.
- ➔ He claims that he and Mike are in the same boat, as proven by Gus killing Victor for no apparent reason after the ordeal in the lab.
- ➔ All this is to frame the situation a certain way and, therefore, manipulate Mike and gain an advantage over Gus.

This doesn't work at all, and Mike even ends up beating up Walter, so this is an anti-feat in that sense as Walter misjudged Mike, however, the tactics themselves in a vacuum are really good and likely would've worked if Walter's idea of Mike was correct. ***[Psychological Manipulation, Logical Manipulation + Tactics]***

S4E3 —

Walter hears the sound of a surveillance camera moving and notices that Gus has installed it inside the lab. ***[Sensory Perception]***

S4E4 —

Skyler is working thoroughly to develop her story that Walter has won his money through gambling. This involves, among other things, an actual system that Walter has developed according to the narrative, and which he and Skyler are trying to invent for real. Walter memorizes the moves he has to make according to the system as well as miscellaneous information regarding how it works and what

mathematical theories it's based on. When the system seems to be having trouble working when applied, Walter points out that it's a useless exercise since he's supposed to be in rehab anyway, so he shouldn't even look at cards, which Skyler agrees with. This shows how he has learned to follow the logic of the narrative, even if it's just to avoid a tedious exercise. ***[Long-Term Memory, Knowledge + Strategy Alignment, Adaptability + Thinking: Linear/Vertical, Critical]***

Walter knows detailed notions on manganese. ***[Knowledge, Academics]***

Walter finds out that Hank knows about Gale's involvement with the meth industry and is investigating his death. During dinner, Walter says he needs to go to the bathroom to have an excuse to sneak into Hank's room and search through his files on Gale to see if there's anything that connects them. After a little bit, he hears Hank coming and hurries out. Hank talks to Walter about his "confession" of his gambling life and offers support, so Walter takes the opportunity to offer his own "help" on anything Hank might need it for, giving the example of cases, saying that even just talking about it could be useful. This prompts Hank to ask Walter's help on the Gale case, which he predicted would happen, especially because it involves chemistry, which Walter is notoriously expert in. This way, Walter is in a position where he can monitor what Hank knows and doesn't know and possibly even thwart the investigations in the future. Walter was presented with a problem and quickly saw a way to take advantage of an unrelated situation by seeing the connections and driving the conversation with Hank. ***[Acting Skills, Verbal Deception + Tactics + Strategy Control, Strategy Foresight, Improvisation + Tactics, Tactical Potency, Formulation Speed, Improvisation, Adaptability, Strategy Control + Psychological Manipulation, Logical Manipulation + Logical Prediction + Long-Term Strategy, Strategy Building, Strategy Efficiency, Strategy Control, Adaptability + Thinking: Linear/Vertical, Lateral/Horizontal, Connective, Analytical, Creative, Fast + Social Skills + Fluid Intelligence]***

Hank points out to Walter that on the first page of Gale's diary, there's the inscription "To W.W., my star, my perfect silence," and jokingly suggests that it could be dedicated to Walter. To seem unsuspicious, Walter decides to joke along and say that Hank "got him". However, he still notices that Hank seems curious and intrigued by the inscription. Walter realizes that he has to remove that doubt from Hank's mind to be completely sure, so he conjures up an explanation. He remembers that Gale was passionate about the poem "When I Heard the Learn'd

Astronomer" by Walt Whitman and pretends to have read it while skimming through the diary, showing it to Hank, and giving him his explanation. Note that while the W.W. inscription is actually dedicated to Walt Whitman, Walter wouldn't have been sure, so I don't count this as reasoning but just something he comes up with. ***[Tactics + Acting Skills, Verbal & Non-Verbal Deception + Emotional Perception + Thinking: Critical, Creative, Fast + Long-Term Memory, Knowledge Application + Acting Skills, Verbal Deception + Psychological Manipulation + Crystallized Intelligence, Fluid Intelligence]***

Walter asks Hank what the police know about Gale's killer to assess if they have any clues that could possibly lead to Jesse, masking it as him simply continuing the conversation and being curious about it. ***[Tactics + Information Gathering + Acting Skills, Verbal Deception]***

Walter notices that the surveillance camera in the lab is following specifically Jesse's moves. The next day, Jesse doesn't show up at the lab. Walter becomes worried that something might've happened to him, which is strengthened by the fact that he's not answering the phone, and goes to his house. The door is locked, but Walter sees that a window is slightly open and crawls through it. The house is empty instead of being full of the usual junkies that Jesse has been having over recently and Walter finds his cell phone on the bedside table. From this, he realizes that Gus is responsible and that he took Jesse away. ***[Observation + Observation + Abductive Reasoning + Observation + Adaptability + Observation, Abductive Reasoning, Thinking: Analytical, Holistic]***

S4E5 —

Walter drives to Gus to confront him about Jesse and suspects he might not survive the encounter, but still goes due to his care for Jesse. In the event that he doesn't, he makes sure that Saul gives Skyler all of the money. ***[Emotional Management, Emotional Engagement, Determination + Strategy Adaptability, Strategy Shielding, Planning Contingency]***

Walter reaches Los Pollos Hermanos and demands that the manager bring him Gus. The manager tells him that Gus isn't there, but Walter doesn't believe her because he saw Gus's car parked outside. Using an authoritative tone, Walter

doubles down on his demands and gets the manager to notify Gus of his arrival. ***[Observation, Inductive Reasoning + Persuasion]***

During a family dinner, Hank praises Gale's supposed genius, thinking he's Heisenberg. This is a severe ego hit for Walter, who's also drunk, so he tells Hank that he doesn't think Gale actually invented the formula because of the way he wrote inside his notebook, without any actual intuition or reasoning to reach the desired outcome, citing his experience as a school teacher and deeming Gale's writing as more similar to someone copying homework. Of course, that's not the real reason he knows Gale didn't come up with the formula, but he still noticed this. ***[Observation + Crystallized Intelligence]***

Note: This is one of Walter's biggest strategic blunders, and one of the main moments that people think about when they say Walter is a character who makes many mistakes. However, it was not due to his not thinking about the consequences of this or misjudging the situation. It's more of an anti-feat in emotional management, but then again, he was drunk.

S4E6 —

Gus has chosen Jesse to accompany Mike to take the money left in various hiding spots by other elements of the operation. On one of these occasions, Jesse successfully stopped a robbery. Walter ends up questioning Jesse about all this since, only given this information, he has already worked out the entirety of Gus's strategy.

- ➔ Walter doesn't think it makes much sense that Gus chose Jesse over any other more physically fit henchman he could've chosen. From this, he figures there must be another reason why Jesse was chosen in particular.
- ➔ Walter understands that what Gus is doing is making Jesse feel important and useful. When he's telling this to Jesse, he makes sure to say that he isn't trying to insult him, but only to make him see things more clearly.
- ➔ When Jesse remarks that he saved Mike from the robbery, Walter quickly realizes that the robbery was set up as a way to manipulate Jesse and make him get closer to Gus so that he can drive a wedge between him and Walter, based on the fact that it's a coincidence that the robbers showed up as soon as Mike left and that they seemed to have given up too quickly. Walter also

mentions the saying “Keep your friends close, your enemies closer” as part of his reasoning.

[Abductive Reasoning, Deductive Reasoning, Thinking: Analytical, Critical + Emotional Understanding + Manipulation Methods (Gaslighting) + Abductive Reasoning, Observation, Thinking: Analytical, Critical, Holistic, Fast + Knowledge, Crystallized Intelligence]

S4E7 —

Since Gus is no longer letting Walter near him, Walter wants to use Jesse to kill Gus, but as it stands, Gus has already gone a long way in getting Jesse closer to him. First, Walter questions Jesse about the last time he met Gus in person, making sure that he could theoretically get close enough to do something. Then, to convince Jesse to kill Gus, he uses a number of tactics:

- ➔ He once again points out how it doesn’t make sense that Gus got Jesse into his new job, especially when he wanted him dead not too long before. This is, beyond anything else, a way to discredit every word and action Gus used to make Jesse feel good about himself as nothing more than a cold strategy to get to Walter.
- ➔ This time, Walter is trying to make Jesse arrive at the conclusion by himself, instead of just saying it out loud, which had the only effect of frustrating Jesse.
- ➔ Walter also says that for Gus to think the strategy would work, he’d have to think Jesse is stupid, which is a way to tell Jesse that he’d be acting stupid if he didn’t acknowledge what Walter is saying as right.
- ➔ Walter then mentions all the ways Gus has hurt Jesse, from Gale and the resulting trauma, to, more notably, the kid killed by his men after the promise of not using kids anymore. Walter does this because he knows the effect these events had on him. This builds up insane amounts of anger inside Jesse and gets him to comply ruining Gus’s plan for the meantime.
- ➔ Before Jesse could even respond, Walter was already adding another layer by suggesting Gus must think of Jesse as weak-willed for not fighting back against him.

[Strategy Vision, Strategy Efficiency, Planning Formulation + Information Gathering + Tactics, Tactical Potency + Psychological Manipulation, Logical Manipulation, Individual Manipulation, Direct Manipulation, Manipulation

Methods (Smearing, Gaslighting) + Crystallized Intelligence + Strategy Fortitude + Psychological Insight + Psychological Manipulation, Manipulation Methods (Gaslighting) + Emotional Manipulation + Emotional Understanding + Emotional Facilitation + Strategy Effectiveness, Strategy Building, Counteraction]

Skyler complains that the amount of money Walter is making is impossible to launder. Walter reminds her that it's her problem to solve and she was the one who decided to do it. He ends up saying that if she wants to quit she's free to do so, moving the problem to her ability and offering a made-up "solution" that she can't take because of the mission she gave herself, so that she stops complaining, then leaves. *[Psychological Manipulation, Direct Manipulation, Individual Manipulation, Manipulation Methods (Gaslighting, Moving the goalpost) + Emotional Understanding + Tactical Potency]*

Walter finds a blind spot in Gus's surveillance system in the lab inside a small room and uses the equipment inside to concoct some ricin. He does it inside the lab because he sees it as some sort of ironic justice. He decides on the ricin because if Jesse used a gun, he wouldn't get out of it alive, and more so, it would look like a death by natural causes, which wouldn't surprise anyone due to Gus's age and work ethic and, therefore, wouldn't lead to an investigation. Walter tells Jesse to take it with him to use at the first opportunity, so Jesse puts it inside a cigarette as a hiding spot. *[Visual-Spatial Intelligence + Planning Preparation + Emotional Engagement + Planning Accuracy, Planning Coverage + Planning Versatility, Short-Term Planning + Thinking: Critical, Analytical, Convergent, Divergent, Lateral/Horizontal, Creative, Connective + Crystallized Intelligence]*

S4E8 —

While Walter is preparing for a PET scan, another man in the waiting room confides with him, saying that he gave up control over his life ever since he found out about having cancer. Walter tells him that he shouldn't give up control and that while everyone says that having cancer is like having a death sentence, every life comes with a death sentence, and so until he gets bad news, he'll be in charge of his life. *[Positive Manipulation + Emotional Engagement, Mental Fortitude, Perseverance + Existential Intelligence]*

Hank suspects that Gus is a meth kingpin and brings Walter to help him plant a bug on Gus's car. As Hank explains his theory, Walter, who is obviously nervous, manages to remain calm enough not to be suspicious and acts like he doesn't know anything. Hank's plan is to have Walter go into Los Pollos Hermanos and, on the way, crouch down next to Gus's car as if to tie his shoes. Walter initially only pretends to do it, knowing he's being watched by Mike, and goes to reassure Gus that he didn't do as Hank asked, trying to prevent the situation from adding more friction to his relationship with Gus. When Gus tells Walter to plant the bug, Walter has to come up with an excuse to Hank to explain why he crouched again, and says he checked to see if the bug was firmly planted. ***[Emotional Management, Stress Tolerance + Acting Skills + Acting Skills, Non-Verbal Deception + Strategy Shielding + Relationship Management + Thinking: Creative, Critical, Divergent, Lateral/Horizontal + Acting Skills, Verbal Deception, Sophistry]***

Walter knows that Hank's suspicions might lead Gus to harm him and also realizes that the situation could implicate Walter himself due to the current tension between himself and Gus. So Walter reassures Gus through the cameras that Hank has no proof, only conjectures, and that nobody except him suspects Gus. Walter then says that if Gus were to harm Hank, it would only draw the DEA's attention to him, adding that it would also expose himself, meaning he couldn't have been behind Hank's new suspicions. Then, having established himself as someone who is against Hank's investigation, he also adds that he will do everything he can to prevent Hank from finding out the truth, making himself an invaluable resource as he is someone Hank trusts. These arguments work to prevent Gus from taking measures against Walter or Hank. ***[Logical Prediction + Thinking: Holistic, Analytical, Linear/Vertical + Logical Manipulation, Individual Manipulation + Strategy Shielding, Strategy Control, Tactics, Tactical Potency]***

Walter knows that Hank is determined to solve his case and will stop at nothing, and he takes that into consideration when thinking of what to do. ***[Emotional Understanding, Psychological Insight + Thinking: Critical, Convergent]***

Walter goes to talk to Jesse about what happened. He knows that Gus will suppose this happened, predicting his thought process based on what Gus knows about them, and instructs Jesse to act worried about Hank's investigation with Hank, simulating the likely emotion he'd be feeling if he wasn't planning to kill Gus

(especially since Hank already knows Jesse and Jesse has killed a man), so as not to raise suspicion. On top of just maintaining an asset, this would work to ensure the assassination plan by keeping Gus's relationship with Jesse intact. In the best-case scenario, Jesse's faked alarmed state would be a perfect excuse for asking for a direct meeting with Gus, working towards the enactment of the plan, as Jesse would want to ask Gus what to say if Hank questions him. These thoughts happen all in a few seconds while Walter is distressed, using his fear to come up with solutions instead of just panicking about the situation. ***[Anticipation, Logical Prediction + Thinking: Critical, Analytical, Connective, Holistic, Horizontal/Linear, Abstract + Strategy Logistics, Strategy Orchestration, Strategy Adaptability, Strategy Fortitude, Strategy Foresight, Strategy Execution, Tactics + Social Cognition, Emotional Understanding + Misdirection, Fabrication + Planning Process, Planning Coverage + Relationship Management (indirect) + Formulation Speed, Strategy Orchestration, Strategy Efficiency, Strategy Logistics, Planning Preparation, Planning Process, Planning Versatility, Planning Aim + Thinking: Critical, Abstract, Horizontal/Linear, Vertical/Lateral, Connective, Fast + Emotional Engagement, Emotional Management, Stress Tolerance, Cognitive Discipline + Crystallized Intelligence]***

When Jesse leaves to go to the bathroom, he gets a notification on his cell phone. Walter decides to check on it, likely because he realizes that Jesse was trying to avoid going through with the plan. He reads a message that says that "the meeting is off" and that "the boss is busy", so he realizes that Jesse actually has been meeting Gus even if he denies it. When Jesse comes back, Walter doesn't reveal the fact that he read the message and just tells Jesse about the notification, then asks him if it was anything important to confirm that Jesse is actively lying when he says no. ***[Intuition + Emotional Perception + Inductive Reasoning + Tactics]***

S4E9 —

As Walter is driving Hank to retrieve the bug planted on Gus's car, he notices in the rear-view mirror Tyrus's car following them. ***[Observation]***

Walter sees that Tyrus has followed them up to Hank's house and is now parked nearby. He immediately thinks of a way to get rid of him. Using the truth to his advantage, he drives up to his car and calls 9-1-1, pretending to be a resident of the

area reporting a suspicious man staring at a particular house for too long. He makes sure that Tyrus hears him so that he leaves immediately, gets the message that Walter won't let him near Hank's house, and so that he's not actually caught, which could get him in trouble with Gus. ***[Thinking: Critical, Divergent, Linear/Vertical, Lateral/Horizontal, Creative, Fast + Improvisation, Formulation Speed, Tactics, Tactical Potency, Strategy Alignment, Strategy Efficiency, Counteraction + Acting Skills, Verbal Deception + Strategy Effectiveness, Strategy Foresight + Crystallized Intelligence, Fluid Intelligence]***

Walter gets to the laundry and sees Jesse smoking. He asks Jesse for a cigarette, putting the ricin strategy on his mind, and then starts having a casual conversation, which has the visible effect of pressuring Jesse. ***[Indirect Manipulation, Individual Manipulation, Psychological Manipulation + Psychological Warfare]***

Hank finds a lead in Los Pollos Hermanos' distribution center and calls Walter to tell him about it and ask for a ride there. Despite having just woken up, Walter quickly finds an excuse not to go, saying he's indisposed due to bad Tex-Mex, and even starts getting into some detail. The lie works because it's an embarrassing thing that Walter is having to say and because his wording, because of its nature, made Hank feel second-hand embarrassment and want to end the conversation. This, however, only works partially, as Hank thinks he can get a ride from someone else. Walter knows this would only make things worse since at least he can misdirect Hank if he's with him, so he tells Hank that his indisposition will only last a day or two at most, and that he wants to be the one to take him because he has been enjoying spending time with him and helping with the investigation, so that Hank would feel guilty going ahead with the alternative plan. This successfully delays Hank's visit to the distribution center, and Walter later calls Mike to warn him. ***[Cognitive Discipline + Short-Term Strategy, Tactics, Improvisation, Adaptability + Acting Skills, Verbal Deception, Misdirection, Concealment + Strategy Fortitude, Strategy Effectiveness + Emotional Facilitation, Social Awareness + Psychological Manipulation, Individual Manipulation, Indirect Manipulation + Strategy Foresight, Strategy Logistics + Tactics, Strategy Control, Improvisation, Adaptability + Acting Skills, Verbal Deception, Emotional Manipulation, Individual Manipulation, Direct Manipulation + Strategy Effectiveness, Tactical Potency + Strategy Logistics + Thinking: Critical, Divergent, Convergent, Linear/Vertical, Lateral/Horizontal, Creative, Connective, Fast + Crystallized Intelligence]***

Not trusting Jesse with his task to kill Gus, Walter plants a bug on his car to get confirmation that he's lying to him about not getting any chances. ***[Short-Term Strategy]***

S4E11 —

Walter knows that Gus has taken Jesse to a possibly dangerous mission to Mexico. Since he can't call anyone directly and Tyrus refuses to answer any of his questions about it, Walter, who's worried for Jesse, asks Hank for any "Cartel-related news" during one of their investigations, and learns that something did happen in Mexico and apparently a lot of people died. Hank would obviously be likely to know something because of his job, and the context makes sense for the question since it's still crime/drug-related. Doing so, obviously, Walter completely conceals the true reasons behind his question. ***[Tactics, Adaptability + Information Gathering + Thinking: Creative, Divergent, Critical + Acting Skills, Concealment]***

Hank has Walter take a detour and explains that they're going to the industrial laundry under which the secret lab is. Walter manages to hide his shock of discovering that Hank has managed to connect the laundry to the Fring investigation, at least enough so that Hank doesn't notice. Keep in mind that the lab is full of Walter's fingerprints. To avoid getting Hank to the place, Walter first pretends to miss the road to the laundry, and then purposefully has an accident with another car as he takes the U-turn to go back. ***[Acting Skills, Concealment + Composure, Emotional Management + Information Control + Tactics, Tactical Potency, Adaptability, Improvisation, Strategy Control + Acting Skills]***

After having been out of commission for four days due to the incident, Walter comes back and notices from a mix of subtle heat, wetness, and smell that someone has used the lab somewhat recently. After a subtle smirk by Tyrus, Walter quickly appears to figure out that it was Jesse, as that's the only one who has enough familiarity with Walter's recipe to be up to Gus's standards, and making Jesse cook independently plays into Gus's strategy of turning them against each other. The reason Tyrus's smirk is one of the giveaways is likely that he and Walter dislike each other, and Jesse is meant to be Walter's replacement in Gus's strategy.
[Observation, Sensory Perception + Emotional Perception + Inductive Reasoning,

Thinking: Analytical, Critical, Convergent, Linear/Vertical, Connective, Holistic, Fast + Emotional Understanding, Psychological Insight + Crystallized Intelligence]

Walter knows that he's in possible danger because he understands that Gus now thinks of Jesse not just as a part-time replacement, but as a definitive one. This is how:

- ➔ As already mentioned, Gus has been executing his strategy to make Jesse loyal and turn him against Walter for a long time.
- ➔ In the past, Gus's main strategy has already been to replace Walter, so now Walter figures out that Gus has merged his two strategies into one.
- ➔ Jesse went to Mexico to teach Cartel chemists how to cook using Walter's recipe. Since he's alive and well, still employed by Gus, he must've been successful, showing that he has achieved some degree of mastery over it. A successful mission together would've also made Jesse more loyal to Gus.

[Logical Prediction + Abductive Reasoning, Thinking: Critical, Linear/Vertical + Thinking: Analytical, Connective + Crystallized Intelligence + Abductive Reasoning, Thinking: Critical, Linear/Vertical, Connective, Holistic + Deductive Reasoning, Abductive Reasoning, Thinking: Critical, Analytical, Connective, Holistic + Psychological Insight]

Gus has Walter abducted and taken to the desert to tell him that he's fired and to warn him never to show his face again at the lab or to contact Jesse. Walter, however, realizes that Gus can't kill him, as he'd already be dead if he could, and also realizes that this is because Jesse won't cook for Gus if he kills Walter. Gus's initial silence confirms Walter's theory. ***[Deductive Reasoning, Abductive Reasoning, Thinking: Critical, Analytical, Connective, Holistic + Emotional Understanding + Emotional Perception + Inductive Reasoning]***

Gus tells Walter that since he has failed to stop Hank's investigation, he will do it himself. He also tells Walter that should he try to interfere, he will kill his whole family. This is what Walter decides to do:

- ➔ To recap, Gus's "taking matters into [his] own hands" means that Hank is soon going to die.
- ➔ Walter's priority, at the moment, is his family, meaning that he'll end the entire Meth-Cooking Strategy just to find the best new strategy to save it.

- ➔ Walter remembers that Saul once mentioned a service that can make people disappear and give them new lives. He goes to Saul to learn exactly what to do to get this service and how to do it.
- ➔ Walter then has Saul make a tip to the DEA to tell them that there's a hit out on Hank, but only after an hour, so he can collect his family for the disappearance. The reason he has Saul do it is that he knows that the DEA knows his voice, since he's part of Hank's family and even goes to their Christmas parties sometimes. The tip will make sure that Hank is protected against any attempt by Gus to kill him.
- ➔ After that, all that Walter has to do is take his family, take the money, and disappear, thereby taking away Gus's leverage after he inevitably decides to act on his threats.
- ➔ So this, in full, is the Disappearance Plan: one hour to prepare for leaving, disappearance, Saul's tip, Gus decides to punish Walter, Walter is already gone.

[Logical Prediction + Emotional Engagement + Long-Term Memory + Information Gathering + Adaptability, Formulation Speed, Short-Term Strategy, Strategy Building, Strategy Alignment, Strategy Logistics, Strategy Orchestration, Strategy Fortitude, Strategy Efficiency + Strategy Efficiency + Planning Coverage, Planning Versatility, Counteraction + Thinking: Critical, Analytical, Linear/Vertical, Lateral/Horizontal, Divergent, Convergent, Connective, Fast + Crystallized Intelligence]

S4E12 —

Because of a series of reasons that Walter couldn't have possibly anticipated, Skyler has had to use most of the drug money. This left Walter, at the end of the last episode, laughing hysterically, having completely lost his composure. This is because his previous plan completely crumbled, and now, due to the tip, he's sure that Gus will be targeting his family almost immediately. Gus has a lot of resources and influence over Walter, making him an almost impossible target to defeat, and moreover, Walter is left with no allies in the drug world due to Gus having successfully manipulated Jesse to turn against Walter (which was partly Walter's fault, to be fair), and Jesse having already made it clear that he will never be helping Walter, even if the latter is about to die. The start of this episode can't have been more than half an hour after the previous one at the very most, due to reasons

I'll be mentioning shortly, and Walter has already regained his composure and is working to help Skyler get to safety. The DEA tip strategy works to Walter's favor as the DEA arrives at Walter's house to take Skyler, and also gets the children to Hank's house, which is currently under protection. In the episode, it's explained that the DEA is extending its protection to Walter's family as "a courtesy to Marie," though it's unclear if it was Marie to outright request it or if it was Walter and Skyler to propose that to Marie over the phone. Walter then tells Skyler that he won't be coming, as that would put his family in danger. While that could be partly true, it's not entirely because Walter knows that at this point Gus can't kill him yet due to Jesse, so it's more likely a way to remain alone and work on his strategy to kill Gus. Again, it hasn't been too much time since he was having fits of hysterical laughter, and he's already completely dedicated to this incredibly dangerous task, which at this point he has no idea how to tackle, to the point of forfeiting his personal safety. With Skyler not wanting to let Walter go, being afraid of him dying, Walter has to convince her, and tells her that it's his fault, that he should go to keep the rest of the family safe, and that he trusts in her ability to explain the situation to the others. Eventually, he gets her to let him go by making a small speech on how the consequences of his actions are coming, and no one should suffer them except him. ***[Composure, Stress Tolerance, Perseverance + Strategy Adaptability + Strategy Fortitude, Strategy Foresight + Strategy Alignment, Strategy Orchestration + Emotional Engagement, Determination, Mental Fortitude, Perseverance, Composure, Cognitive Discipline + Persuasion, Emotional Manipulation, Direct Manipulation, Individual Manipulation + Emotional Engagement]***

During the conversation, Walter makes an accurate prediction that Hank won't be bothered by the situation but rather by Marie's "overreaction" to it. ***[Intuitive Prediction + Psychological Insight, Emotional Understanding]***

➢ Lily of the Valley Plan

Walter has few resources, no allies, and little time to work with. He's sure at this point that he has to kill Gus because it's the only way he can keep himself and his family safe.
So, here's what he knows:

- ➔ Jesse is now close to Gus, being his main cook. He is, however, unwilling to help Walter.

- ➔ In fact, Jesse is actively antagonistic to Walter because of the bug and the fact that Walter refused to help Jesse for his Mexico mission.
- ➔ Gus is constantly protected, and Walter doesn't have a way of knowing his location in order to attempt an assassination.
- ➔ Walter does have a small ally in Saul and the people who work for him, however, there is very little Saul would be willing to do, due to his sense of self-preservation, and since this is an assassination, Saul, being a lawyer, wouldn't have much practical use.

After contemplating for some time, Walter already enacts his plan.

Walter decides that he's going to get Jesse back to his side, as Jesse holds the only amount of leverage Walter could exploit at the moment, that being his ability to cook. ***[Short-Term Strategy, Strategy Fortitude, Strategy Logistics, Strategy Foresight]***

Walter has Saul call Jesse to his office. Jesse, getting several urgent messages on his phone, gets to Saul's and is initially searched by Huell, Saul's bodyguard, for weapons. Saul is apparently leaving, his reason being that since he's Walter's biggest collaborator and therefore feels threatened in the situation. Since he's leaving, his excuse for calling Jesse is that he's giving Jesse his money that he was keeping. Saul's being worried also gives an excuse for Huell to search Jesse like he did. The truth is that the whole set-up happened to give Huell the chance to pickpocket the ricin cigarette from Jesse's pockets while he's patting him down. ***[Tactics, Strategy Orchestration, Strategy Building, Strategy Alignment, Short-Term Planning, Planning Aim + Misdirection, Concealment + Strategy Fortitude, Planning Coverage, Tactical Synergy + Strategy Orchestration, Strategy Building, Planning Intricacies, Planning Aim]***

After this, Walter poisons the son of Jesse's girlfriend, Brock, using a plant called lily of the valley. It's been said by the writers that he did this by injecting the poison into Brock's juice box, but this is never shown. I'll talk in more detail about the ricin later. What matters is that Brock will be feeling sick and go to the hospital, and Jesse will find that the ricin cigarette is missing. After this, due to the love that Walter understands Jesse having for Brock, Walter predicts that Jesse will suspect Walter of stealing the ricin and

using it on Brock, because at first thought, Walter would be the only one to know, and that he'll go to his house to confront him about it. Jesse is full of anger and hate at the idea of an innocent child having been poisoned like that (consider Jesse's soft spot for children and the fact that this one is someone he cares about), and goes to Walter. ***[Planning Versatility, Strategy Building, Strategy Execution, Strategy Efficiency, Strategy Foresight, Tactics + Planning Aim + Emotional Understanding + Logical Prediction + Thinking: Critical, Linear/Vertical + Emotional Facilitation, Emotional Understanding, Psychological Insight + Emotional Manipulation, Indirect Manipulation, Individual Manipulation]***

Here's what Walter is expecting from the situation:

- ➔ Jesse has developed significant anger and hate.
- ➔ Jesse is coming to kill Walter.
- ➔ Walter will be able to convince Jesse that Gus is behind the poisoning;
- ➔ Jesse's negative emotions will be redirected onto Gus, turning him against him;
- ➔ Jesse will be determined to kill Gus, and Walter will ally himself with him.
- ➔ Jesse's past anger at Walter will be overshadowed by his anger for Gus; on top of that, Walter's proposition to help him kill Gus will further push Jesse into forgetting their past differences; and finally, Jesse will be feeling guilty for almost killing Walter, whom he'll believe to be innocent at this point; in short, Jesse will be back on Walter's side.
- ➔ Gus's dependency on Jesse to cook will make Jesse the perfect candidate for luring him into a trap, and moreover, Brock having been poisoned already creates the perfect pretext for the trap, as I'll go into later.

Here's how it all plays out:

Walter lets Jesse in, acting wary, and explains the danger he's in. Then, pretending to look through the windows at every sound to check for any clue of Gus's men, he leaves his gun behind for Jesse to take, leaving himself vulnerable, without making it obvious that he's doing it on purpose. Then, Jesse points his gun at Walter. Walter initially acts shocked, then pretends to think that it's because he contacted the DEA for his family's protection, as that's what he'd think if he didn't know about Brock's poisoning. Jesse

accuses Walter of poisoning Brock, and Walter continues to act like he knows nothing about it while Jesse continues to heat up. Walter tells Jesse that he would have no reason to do something like that, and acts like poisoning a child is something that he'd never think of, which, as far as Jesse knows, is true. Then, Walter pretends to realize that what happened was Gus's plan to manipulate Jesse into killing him, as evidenced by Gus having demonstrated to be okay with children being hurt and Jesse's consensus being the only thing stopping him from getting rid of Walter. Jesse rebuts that only he and Walter knew about the ricin, but Walter counters that Jesse wouldn't even believe that due to Gus's having cameras everywhere, and proposes that Tyrus could've lifted the cigarette from Jesse's locker at the lab, acting in a way that makes it look like it's obvious. Jesse starts showing signs of believing Walter's theory, so Walter pretends to give up and tells Jesse to kill him if he thinks he's capable of poisoning a kid. Walter predicts that since Jesse is not sure anymore that Walter is the culprit, he won't be able to kill him. That being said, Walter couldn't have been completely certain, so the fact that he's looking at a man pointing a gun to his head, with no fear at all, daring him to pull the trigger, is still impressive, and shows how he's putting his desperation into this plan. This move is to present an inner logic to Jesse. By telling him to shoot him, Walter is establishing in Jesse's mind that, to him, poisoning a child is such a reprehensible act that he would let himself be killed even if Jesse simply believed him to be capable of it. This would only work to increase Jesse's doubts, who to be noted, is at this moment acting on intuition, that being that Walter used the ricin, and has been presented with an alternative narrative that is just as logical. Believing Gus to be the culprit would obviously be much easier for Jesse, with all he's been through with Walter, and now Walter has made it clear that if Jesse thinks he's the culprit, he should pull the trigger, murdering a possibly innocent former friend of his, making the alternative much more appealing to Jesse's psyche. This in an extremely powerful psychological tactic as it frames the situation as having only two outcomes: either Walter is innocent and what he's saying is true, or Jesse has to kill him. The extremity of the second outcome makes any existing doubt weigh massively, as Jesse would ideally want to make sure Walter is truly guilty if he's to kill him. This, added on top of Walter's previous acting skills and carefully crafted narrative, tips the scales. Jesse puts the gun down, his anger now redirected at Gus. He now wants to kill Gus and starts leaving to do it immediately, but Walter stops

him, telling him to just leave and go away. Of course, he predicts that Jesse won't do that, since the rest of the plan relies on that. Jesse has already demonstrated similar vindictive behavior when the other kid got killed, and now Walter understands that the anger of having a close one hurt like that will never let Jesse walk away without killing Gus. So, when Jesse refuses to leave, Walter says that he'll have no chance and proposes that they join forces to kill Gus, and so begins the rest of the plan. ***[Logical Prediction + Strategy Execution, Planning Accuracy + Acting Skills, Verbal & Non-Verbal Deception, Concealment + Acting Skills, Verbal Deception + Acting Skills + Sophistry, Verbal Deception, Misdirection, Logical Manipulation + Acting Skills, Verbal Deception, Misdirection, Logical Manipulation, Direct Manipulation, Individual Manipulation, Fabrication, Manipulation Methods (Smearing) + Psychological Manipulation, Logical Manipulation, Sophistry, Manipulation Methods (Gaslighting) + Emotional Perception + Emotional Manipulation, Acting Skills + Logical Prediction + Composure, Emotional Management, Stress Tolerance, Emotional Engagement + Tactics, Tactical Potency, Tactical Synergy + Emotional Facilitation + Logical Prediction + Psychological Manipulation, Emotional Manipulation + Emotional Understanding, Psychological Insight + Emotional Understanding, Psychological Insight + Logical Manipulation, Persuasion + Risk Calculation, Planning Aim, Planning Accuracy, Planning Intricacies, Planning Coverage, Strategy Orchestration, Strategy Building, Strategy Alignment, Strategy Effectiveness, Strategy Efficiency, Strategy Execution, Strategy Complexity, Tactics, Tactical Potency, Tactical Complexity + Thinking: Critical, Analytical, Convergent, Divergent, Abstract, Linear/Vertical, Lateral/Horizontal, Creative + Crystallized Intelligence]***

Walter manages to build a remote-controlled bomb using stuff he finds at his house in a few hours. ***[Knowledge, Knowledge Application, Crystallized Methods, Crystallized Intelligence]***

Meanwhile, Jesse goes to the hospital and stays there, refusing to go to work, even when Tyrus shows up there. Jesse's reason for doing this was directly created by Walter's move of poisoning Brock, showing that there where two layers to the plan: manipulating Jesse and setting a trap to lure

Gus to the hospital. This works, as Walter understands, because Gus has several reasons to show up in person:

- ➔ Jesse is currently Gus's best asset in drug-making.
- ➔ If Jesse doesn't get to work, an entire day's worth of batch will be lost.
- ➔ Gus, unaware of Walter's machinations, is still working on his independent strategy to get Jesse closer to himself and further from Walter, so showing up at the hospital would be a great show of care that Gus is likely to take advantage of.
- ➔ Moreover, as far as Gus knows, Jesse is on extremely bad terms with Walter, something that Walter knows Gus would think, among other tells, from the fact that when Walter was kidnapped Jesse had just physically shoved him and refused to help him. The fact that Gus's entire strategy was to turn them against each other and the fact that it succeeded is exactly why Gus couldn't have seen the hospital trap coming and one of the several reasons why it was such a good move for Walter to target Jesse specifically for his strategy.
- ➔ Jesse himself tells Tyrus that if Gus has a problem with his behavior, he should go tell him himself, prompting Gus to come. Gus, taking into consideration the first three points, will choose to go to Jesse.

[Tactics, Tactical Potency, Strategy Execution, Strategy Orchestration, Strategy Building, Short-Term Planning + Planning Intricacies, Strategy Efficiency, Strategy Alignment, Strategy Complexity, Tactical Synergy + Setting Traps, Logical Prediction + Thinking: Analytical, Critical, Linear/Vertical + Planning Invincibility, Planning Accuracy, Strategy Fortitude + Logical Manipulation, Indirect Manipulation, Individual Manipulation]

Gus arrives at the hospital in his car, and Walter puts the bomb under his car, ready to detonate it as soon as Gus returns. ***[Planning Aim, Strategy Effectiveness + Strategy Execution]***

However, Jesse tells Gus that Brock isn't just sick, but poisoned, which causes Gus to be suspicious of the circumstances and realize that he might have been set up. Gus decides to change his means of transport and not get into his car, so the ultimate goal of the plan fails. Still, consider that the circumstances under which this happened weren't due to Walter, and that Walter's strategy is still pretty much intact, because the first part of the plan

worked perfectly and got Jesse back to Walter's side. ***[Planning Aim & Strategy Effectiveness (partial)]***

I'll briefly go back to Walter's formulation of this plan. Walter was sitting by the pool, contemplating what to do. He was very clearly lost in thought, not knowing which route to take, spinning his gun on a table. When the gun stops for the third time, it's pointing at a vase with the lily of the valley in it, which prompts the idea for the plan. This is pretty crazy because there are several things Walter would've needed to think of in order to connect the plant to his goals in any way. This is the minimum thought process he would've had to make:

- ➔ The lily of the valley can be processed into poison.
- ➔ Its effects would be similar to those of the ricin.
- ➔ If someone close to Jesse is poisoned by the lily of the valley, Jesse might think it was the ricin.
- ➔ This would lead Jesse to suspect Walter.
- ➔ Walter could convince Jesse that it was Gus and turn him against him.

I'm not sure about the order of this, or if something's even missing, but it gives an idea. Walter can't have directly connected the plant to Gus because the idea of poisoning him is ridiculous. But Walter did make these connections in that brief time, as evidenced by the clear look of realization in his eyes after looking at the plant. The thought process happens in about 6 to 7 seconds, and Walter only took a few more hours at most to come up with the plan as a whole. ***[Thinking: Critical, Analytical, Convergent, Divergent, Abstract, Linear/Vertical, Lateral/Horizontal, Creative, Connective, Holistic, Fast + Processing Speed Index, Fluid Reasoning Index + Formulation Speed, Improvisation + Fluid Intelligence, Crystallized Intelligence]***

Another thing to consider is why Walter used the lily of the valley and not just the ricin. Simply enough, the lily of the valley is much less deadly, and Walter didn't want to kill Brock, so using the lily of the valley allowed him to dose the poison to be non-fatal. The lily of the valley is also a kind of poison that's common with kids due to coming in red berries that they might eat, which means that after the doctors identify the poison, Jesse will stop believing someone did it intentionally, Gus or Walter, and won't think about it anymore, preventing him from discovering what Walter did in the long run,

and also preventing him from being suspicious should he warn the doctor about the ricin. Moreover, the thing being written off as an accident would prevent Jesse from being accused. Due to this aspect, Walter might've had to predict how much time the doctor would take to identify the poison, which is not unfeasible considering his expertise in chemistry and science in general. ***[Knowledge, Knowledge Application, Crystallized Methods, Crystallized Intelligence + Planning Accuracy + Planning Accuracy, Planning Coverage, Strategy Foresight, Strategy Logistics + Logical Prediction + Knowledge, Academics, Crystallized Intelligence]***

S4E13 —

After Gus evades the hospital trap, Walter rushes to adapt his plan to the new situation. He takes the bomb off the car and goes to Jesse. Walter knows that Jesse has spent a lot of time with Gus and, therefore, thinks he could have useful information, and so Walter asks Jesse if he knows a place where Gus won't be able to see him coming. During the conversation, we're also shown that Walter has realized that Gus left because of something that Jesse told him. ***[Perseverance + Strategy Control, Strategy Adaptability, Planning Versatility, Planning Contingencies, Improvisation, Adaptability + Inductive Reasoning, Thinking: Analytical, Critical, Connective, Linear/Vertical, Lateral/Horizontal + Abductive Reasoning]***

While Walter and Jesse are talking, two police officers show up to take Jesse to questioning because he told the doctors that Brock was likely poisoned by ricin. To adapt, Walter goes to search for Saul so that he can get in touch with Jesse, aligning his previous strategy with the creation of a new one. ***[Strategy Adaptability, Strategy Control, Strategy Alignment, Improvisation, Adaptability]***

However, when he goes to Saul's office, he finds it empty except for Saul's secretary, who demands to be paid in exchange for information on Saul. Walter goes to his house to get the money. He suspects that there may be some of Gus's men there. It's not an unreasonable suspicion to have by default since he left his house unattended, but note that the situation before the Lily of the Valley Plan was that Gus couldn't kill Walter yet, so what's more likely is that Walter anticipated Gus's possible thought process:

- ➔ Gus suspects that the hospital was a trap.
- ➔ The means for the trap was poison.
- ➔ The use of something this subtle rules out Cartel involvement, where the Cartel would be the other big suspect for attempting to kill Gus.
- ➔ Moreover, the use of Jesse specifically further suggests this.
- ➔ Gus must've thought it was Walter and so sent someone to his house.

To send any possible intruders away, Walter calls his neighbor, who has the keys to his house, and tells her that he and his family are away, and that Walter Junior thinks he might've left the burner on the stove. The neighbor, as simple courtesy, or if not that, to avoid a possible fire, goes into Walter's house, and the two men inside leave. ***[Anticipation + Thinking: Analytical, Critical, Connective, Linear/Vertical, Lateral/Horizontal + Improvisation, Formulation Speed, Strategy Control, Short-Term Strategy, Strategy Efficiency, Tactics + Acting Skills, Verbal Deception + Social Awareness + Logical Manipulation + Strategy Effectiveness]***

Walter retrieves the money from the crawlspace, but while he's down, he notices a pair of shadows briefly covering the light coming from outside and realizes that the two men are back. When he closes the door, the men are already inside, meaning he likely waited for them to get in. This is likely to lure them into a part of the house with no windows directly facing the escape route, and be sure they wouldn't see him. In order to pull this off, Walter would've had to visualize the path from the window he saw them pass by to the entrance of his house, as well as their walking speed. ***[Tactics + Visual-Spatial Intelligence]***

Something worth mentioning, even if how valid you consider it depends on interpretation, is that it's been confirmed that Bryan Cranston wasn't aware of the lily of the valley reveal and genuinely thought Walter was telling the truth about the poisoning. This means that Cranston, one of the most highly regarded living actors, who has over 30 major awards and over 80 nominations under his belt, gave the exact same performance as Walter himself, who in turn was in a highly stressful situation and didn't have multiple takes. This methodologically scales Walter's acting convincingness and ability to convincingly fake and simulate emotions to Bryan Cranston's. This can be consistent with other shows of acting skills if you assume that Cranston was fully committed to making Walter as good of an actor as possible in instances like the fake confession. We're also comparing an actor trying to make a fictional character convincing enough for audiences at home versus Walter trying to fool someone who knows him extremely well. Moreover, this

means that there was functionally no behavioral difference between a truthful Walter and a lying Walter. If Walter had been telling the truth, he would've acted exactly the same way, every possible physical tell would've been identical, down to microexpressions, because that's how the actor portraying him would've done it (and thought he was doing). At the highest interpretation, this would make Walter's acting skills perfect, and while I wouldn't go that far just based on a piece of trivia, it's still incredibly impressive. Note that I don't think Walter is capable of replicating this level of acting in any situation, we see him being relatively sloppy in other occasions, but these are relatively low-stakes instances and when under direct threat he's consistently a great actor capable of fooling almost anyone, from trained doctors to someone like Mike Ehrmantraut. It's a constant in the show how his abilities are amped by necessity, making him theoretically able to reach this level if backed up against a wall or fully dedicated. ***[Acting Skills]***

➢ Casa Tranquila Plan

Saul goes to talk to Jesse and then reports his findings back to Walter, the information in question being that Jesse once saw Gus going to Casa Tranquila, the nursing home where Hector Salamanca lives, in order to tell him that the last member of his family is dead, and that he seemed to be enjoying doing that. Aside from that, all Jesse knew was that Hector killed someone close to Gus at some point. While Saul doesn't consider the information to be much, Walter clearly finds it game-changing. This is what he extrapolates from it:

- ➔ Gus and Hector are enemies. This is a pretty basic connection from the fact that Hector killed someone close to Gus and Gus definitely seemed to be wanting payback. The sheer existence of "someone close to Gus" is notable because of how isolated and cold Gus generally is. From this contrast alone, Walter can already tell that the event was emotionally significant for Gus.
- ➔ On top of that, Walter gauged the hatred felt by Gus against Hector to be extreme, as proven by his strategy later, because Gus is usually very careful with public appearances, so drawing a connection between himself and Hector just for the sake of mentally torturing him goes to show.

- ➔ Gus was the one to kill the Salamancas. This is a bit less straightforward, but it's heavily implied that Walter knew because he was later shown to be confident that Hector would hate Gus more than him, despite his being one of the main reasons behind Tuco's death. So, to make it simple, Walter knew that Jesse had gone to Mexico for some kind of mission around that time, and he also knew that Gus's machinations back in season 3 directly led to the death of the Salamanca twins, though at the time it looked more like a pawn situation and not like a deliberate revenge. We know that Walter wasn't aware of Gus's rivalry with the Salamancas before this point because he initially assumed Gus and Hector were associates.
- ➔ Looking at it from Hector's perspective, he's still a definitely sharp-minded criminal, as Walter would know from their previous interactions, surrounded by senile old people, unable to walk or talk or to take any action against his worst enemy and the man who exterminated his family. Seen from this angle, Walter arriving and giving him an opportunity to kill Gus would look like a god-sent, even (or especially, I might even say) if the plan involves Hector's own death. Another layer to this could be that the Mexican Cartel is known for its revenge culture.
- ➔ From this information, Walter was able to find someone who would want to help him kill Gus at any cost, and a perfect trap against Gus, who, based on what Walter was able to figure out, would never delegate the killing of Hector, should it come to that.

[Information Gathering + Thinking: Analytical, Critical, Linear/Vertical, Lateral/Horizontal, Divergent, Convergent, Creative, Holistic, Connective, Fast + Inductive Reasoning + Emotional Understanding + Psychological Insight + Abductive Reasoning + Emotional Understanding, Psychological Insight + Abductive Reasoning, Inductive Reasoning + Emotional Understanding + Abductive Reasoning + Emotional Understanding, Psychological Insight + Emotional Manipulation, Logical Manipulation + Social Awareness + Strategy Alignment, Strategy Adaptability, Strategy Building, Strategy Fortitude, Strategy Efficiency + Logical Prediction + Crystallized Intelligence]

We're not shown the full conversation, but soon after, based on what was mentioned above, Walter is able to convince Hector to take part in a new

assassination plan against Gus. ***[Emotional Facilitation + Persuasion + Strategy Orchestration, Strategy Building, Planning Preparation, Planning Versatility, Formulation Speed]***

The plan goes as follows:

- ➔ Hector tells his nurse, via his alphabet board, that he wants to speak with the DEA, specifically with Hank.
  - ◆ Anyone who knows Hector knows that he'd never snitch to the DEA, as a personal principle. That's why he's alive and free on Gus's account. However, now that Hector's whole family is dead, that he has nothing left to live for, no power of influence to speak of, the idea that he would resort to giving information about Gus to the DEA as some form of payback is a reasonable possibility. Upon learning this, Gus would just assume that he had overestimated Hector's hatred for the DEA or underestimated his hatred for him.
  - ◆ In reality, Hector would truly never say a thing to the DEA. When he gets taken in, all he does is communicate insults through his board. Hector even enjoyed doing this, as Hank was the one to kill Tuco.
  - ◆ Calling Hank directly is an important part of the misdirection. The fact that Hank is the one directly investigating Gus, and he's being taken to the DEA office, as Hector is there too, will make it look like Hector is precisely snitching on Gus. That aside, it's also the only way to make sure Gus even finds out, since Walter knows he most likely has Hank monitored.
  - ◆ Upon learning that Hector wants to speak with Hank, most of the family thinks that it's a bad idea and that it could be a trap by the Cartel, but Hank goes nonetheless. Walter knew that Hank wouldn't pass off the opportunity for information, him being as dedicated to his work as he is. More than that, the protection he'd be under would be another sweetener to the idea of coming.
- ➔ At this point, what Gus knows is that Hector has been at the DEA's offices. This means that either he said something important or he didn't.

- If he did talk, Gus would already be in trouble, and killing Hector would only prevent him from possibly giving out other information or from testifying. And even if what Hector had told the DEA was already enough to put Gus in trouble, Gus wouldn't want to risk going to prison without getting his revenge. On top of that, it would be a perfect pretext for finally killing his enemy, seeing as he's apparently so emotionally broken as to consider speaking with the DEA.
- And then, of course, there's the possibility that he was only questioned or that he didn't say anything of importance, in which case, killing him would be the most logical move.
- In short: If Hector shows up at the DEA headquarters, it can either be because he was called there or because he went out of his own volition. The possibility of Hector ratting out is unlikely but real. If they called him there and he talked, he's a danger and might testify. If they called him there and he didn't talk, he might change his mind and become a danger. If he went there of his own volition, he's a danger and might testify.
- And if what Hector did was already enough to deal significant damage, then Gus would have nothing left but his revenge.
- In other words, Hector has to die. Walter's only gamble is on Gus being there to do it himself. Walter knows Gus wouldn't let anyone but himself finish Hector after a long rivalry of killing each other's loved ones and therefore will come.

➔ When Hector returns to Casa Tranquila, Walter plants the bomb under his wheelchair.

- Walter adapts the mechanism so that Hector is able to prime the bomb by ringing his bell.
- The benefits of using a human primer instead of the initial remote detonator he had for the car bomb are several: Gus is likely to sweep the room for bugs, since from his perspective Hector might be collaborating with the DEA, and though this is not always the case, bug detectors can pick up on other remote devices; not relying on the detonator allows Walter to be far away from the explosion, which while not a necessary measure is surely safer in the context that it diminishes the chances of anyone seeing him sneaking away; there being a human primer

also adds more robustness to the trap, as detailed in the point below.

- The bomb had to be planted in a spot where it couldn't be seen. Even if Gus or Tyrus do see the bomb, Hector would notice it and detonate it before they can escape.
- While he's there, Walter also asks Hector if he has second thoughts. Since the plan involves Hector killing himself, Walter has to be sure he doesn't hesitate, or the whole thing could be busted.

➔ Walter leaves and stays in his car with the radio on. If the explosion happens, it will be big enough of a deal to be immediately broadcast as breaking news.

➔ The trap is sprung. Gus arrives at Casa Tranquila to kill Hector. Hector activates the bomb, and he, Gus, and Tyrus are all killed. Walter has won.

➔ The obvious conclusion anyone would make upon learning what happened and subsequently learning of Gus Fring's drug empire is that the killing was part of some feud between criminal gangs. This gives the police and the DEA a reasonable explanation and prevents them from looking as closely as they'd do otherwise.

➔ This is all done by abstracting and predicting Gus's thoughts in the situation, so many of the points above can be seen as thinking and reasoning as well as planning.

[Short-Term Planning + Planning Accuracy, Planning Coverage, Planning Intricacies, Strategy Execution + Misdirection + Strategy Alignment, Planning Accuracy + Emotional Understanding + Misdirection, Fabrication + Information Control + Planning Accuracy, Strategy Execution, Strategy Orchestration + Logical Prediction + Logical Prediction + Psychological Insight + Planning Invincibility + Planning Coverage, Planning Accuracy, Planning Invincibility + Emotional Manipulation, Indirect Manipulation, Individual Manipulation + Logical Manipulation + Logical Prediction, Trap Setting + Emotional Understanding, Psychological Insight + Strategy Adaptability, Strategy Execution, Planning Accuracy + Strategy Fortitude, Strategy Logistics, Strategy Shielding, Planning Accuracy, Planning Invincibility + Anticipation, Logical Prediction + Visual-Spatial Index + Planning Invincibility + Planning Invincibility, Strategy Shielding + Planning Accuracy, Strategy Building + Strategy Effectiveness, Planning

***Aim** + **Planning Intricacies, Planning Accuracy, Planning Coverage, Strategy Complexity, Strategy Foresight, Strategy Resilience** + **Crystallized Intelligence** + **Deductive Reasoning, Inductive Reasoning, Abductive Reasoning, Thinking: Critical, Analytical, Linear, Convergent**]*

With Gus dead in an explosion by a former Cartel associate, Walter knows that it won't take long for the DEA to realize who Gus truly is. He also already knows, through Hank, that there is a connection between Gus and the lab. So, to prevent himself from getting connected to the case, Walter knows he'll have to destroy all the evidence in the lab. He also wants to rescue Jesse, who has been kidnapped by Gus's men after being released by the police. Walter manages to sneak up to one of the guards outside the lab and, holding him at gunpoint, has him ring the doorbell of the lab to get the guard inside to open the door, and to kill him, taking him by surprise. He shoots both and frees Jesse. Then, the two start wrecking the lab apart, spilling large quantities of flammable liquid on the floor and leaving a cable, rigged to a timer, touching the ground, so that once the timer goes off, the wires spark and the whole room catches fire, but only after Walter and Jesse have left. Walter and Jesse wipe the entrance to the lab clean to remove fingerprints, then they leave, having eliminated every tangible trace of their presence at the lab. On top of that, the two charred corpses inside might look like the cooks, giving a possible closure to the Heisenberg myth, as the police would surely discover Gus was the one to distribute blue meth, at least until Walter gets a new operation running. *[**Thinking: Critical, Analytical, Linear/Vertical** + **Logical Prediction** + **Anticipation** + **Strategy Shielding, Strategy Foresight, Strategy Control** + **Tactics, Strategy Efficiency, Strategy Effectiveness, Strategy Execution** + **Tactics, Strategy Efficiency, Strategy Logistics, Strategy Execution** + **Strategy Effectiveness** + **Short-Term Strategy, Strategy Orchestration, Strategy Alignment, Strategy Foresight, Strategy Adaptability, Strategy Control**]*

Walter takes Jesse to the hospital and waits in the parking lot for his return with news on Brock. This is an important show of care from Walter. Upon learning that Brock is going to survive, Walter acts relieved (though the acting here is supported by his actual emotions, as it'd be better on his conscience not actually having killed a child) and then surprised when Jesse says Brock wasn't poisoned with ricin, looking clueless at the explanation of the lily of the valley. The two end the conversation with a handshake, showing their healed relationship thanks to

Walter's machinations. ***[Emotional Manipulation, Individual Manipulation + Acting Skills, Concealment + Emotional Engagement]***

Season 5 (Heisenberg) Feats



S5E1 —

While his family isn't home, Walter rushes to dispose of everything he used to create the bomb, as well as the lily of the valley pot, to avoid any situation where Jesse finds it in the unlikely event he comes to his house. ***[Strategy Foresight + Anticipation]***

Walter remembers that Gus had cameras everywhere, which will prove an issue if the police get to the tapes before he does. He and Jesse run into Mike, who is furious about Gus's death. Walt initially lets Jesse be the one to speak, as he's closer to Mike, and Jesse manages to get him to listen. Walt gets Mike to

collaborate completely by telling him about the cameras and then asks him if he knows where Gus kept the recordings, which turns out to be a laptop. ***[Foresight + Emotional Understanding + Logical Manipulation, Persuasion + Information Gathering]***

➢ Magnet Plan

Mike finds out through his contacts that the laptop has already been filed and put inside the evidence room, to which he immediately concludes that the best thing for everyone would be to leave the city. Walter, however, doesn't even consider the possibility of surrendering after all he's been through, stays calm, and begins weighing his options and throwing out ideas, like getting an incendiary device filed into the evidence room or blowing the room up from the outside. Jesse, in the meantime, gets the simple idea of using a magnet, which Walter initially discards, probably thinking it's silly, but then quickly settles on, seeing its potential. A magnet could destroy the laptop's circuit and smash it against the wall, if used properly, making it a viable option. ***[Information Gathering (indirect) + Perseverance, Emotional Management, Emotional Engagement, Cognitive Discipline + Thinking: Divergent, Lateral/Horizontal, Creative + Thinking: Critical, Lateral/Horizontal, Convergent, Connective + Knowledge, Knowledge Application + Strategy Vision]***

Walter, Jesse, and Mike go to Old Joe's, knowing he has access to powerful magnets and is willing to help them. Walter quickly identifies a truck in which to put the magnet during the operation. During the tests, Walter shows knowledge on magnetism, like knowing that non-ferrous metals won't be attracted by the magnet or the logistics of the batteries that power it. Walter wants to test the magnets starting from a distance greater than the size of the evidence room, and when the magnet works, he asks Old Joe to provide him with twice the power just to be sure. ***[Strategy Building + Knowledge + Strategy Building, Strategy Fortitude, Planning Accuracy]***

The plan is as follows:

- ➔ Mike, covering his face, uses a spray can to cover the security camera in front of the gates, then wires the gates open to let the van through.

- ➔ The truck positions itself near the right room. Doing this, Walter is shown to have memorized the layout of the building.
- ➔ The magnet is activated.
- ➔ After that, from Mike's reaction later, I can infer that the original plan was to drive away with the truck, but the magnet was so strong as to tip it over and make that impossible. So Walter and Jesse ran on foot and used Mike's car instead. Walter isn't worried about the police having the truck, as he made sure there were no prints on it and no paperwork that could trace it back to Old Joe's yard.
- ➔ The plan works successfully.
- ➔ During all of this, while Jesse and even Mike are worried and doubtful about the plan working, Walter is completely calm and confident.

[Strategy Execution, Planning Accuracy + Visual-Spatial Index + Strategy Control, Strategy Adaptability + Planning Contingencies, Planning Coverage + Planning Aim, Planning Versatility, Strategy Effectiveness, Strategy Efficiency + Determination, Stress Tolerance, Emotional Management + Crystallized Intelligence]

Walter and Saul are discussing how Skyler was able to give away money to Ted to cover for his problems with the IRS. Saul helped Skyler with her plans without consulting Walter and is now trying to look good in his eyes, and being Saul, wiggling out of the situation. However, Walter has none of it, for example, when pointing out the hypocrisy in the use of the word "ethical" when he tries to defend his right to work with a client privately. Saul ends up telling Walter that the two of them are done, mainly because of the emotional baggage that came with being an accomplice in the poisoning of Brock. Walter silently walks up to Saul and tells him, "We're done when I say we're done", getting him to stay out of fear. ***[Seeing Through People + Thinking: Analytical, Abstract + Verbal Comprehension Index + Emotional Facilitation, Aura, Relationship Management + Intimidation]***

S5E2 —

Jesse is getting increasingly worried because he can't find the ricin cigarette anywhere. Walter offers the explanation that he could have lost it in the lab, meaning it's now destroyed, but it's not enough to ease Jesse's worries long-term, so Walter offers to come and help him look for it in his house. He creates a duplicate

using salt, probably to lessen the danger of handling it during the "search", and then he thinks of keeping the ricin from the original one to possibly use at a later time. He hides it inside a wall outlet. The two then meet at Jesse's house and begin the search, during which Walter hides the cigarette inside Jesse's Roomba. Walter probably intended for Jesse to think about checking it during the search, but since he doesn't, he pretends to notice it for the first time after they have given up. Even though Jesse had already checked the Roomba a week earlier, it's still plausible for the cigarette to have wound up inside of it during the mess of the search. Jesse finds it and breaks down in tears at the guilt of having almost killed Walter, but Walter acts understanding, saying it was all for the best, which likely increases Jesse's affection for him, on top of his guilt already making him more likely to submit to Walter's demands in the future, for example his offer of working with him in future drug business, which also works as a way to give something new for Jesse to focus on to cope with his guilt. As this happens, Walter is battling with his own guilt for causing such turmoil in Jesse, but he doesn't let it slip and ruin his performance or give his lies away, as he's determined to keep Jesse on his side. ***[Sophistry + Strategy Efficiency + Emotional Understanding + Strategy Orchestration, Strategy Building, Planning Preparation, Planning Coverage, Strategy Logistics + Foresight + Concealment + Tactics + Strategy Execution + Acting Skills, Verbal Deception + Tactics, Adaptability + Strategy Fortitude, Planning Accuracy + Acting Skills, Verbal Deception, Emotional Manipulation, Psychological Manipulation, Individual Manipulation, Direct Manipulation + Strategy Alignment + Emotional Manipulation, Positive Manipulation (on the surface, at least) + Emotional Facilitation + Emotional Management, Mental Fortitude, Emotional Engagement]***

To continue the business, Walter wants to get Mike as a partner, as he has the connections and experience needed for the distribution and logistics side. Despite Mike's reluctance, Walter keeps calm and tells him to sleep on it, going for a handshake. ***[Strategy Vision, Strategy Control, Strategy Logistics, Strategy Efficiency + Emotional Facilitation]***

Walter and Jesse ask Saul to find a new place to cook. Saul suggests that they instead live with what they've got, but Walter reminds him that he's broke now and even owes Jesse some money. Saying this out loud makes him sound more trustworthy to Jesse. Walter also refuses to give up the methylamine recipe as it's

become his brand on which they can capitalize. ***[Strategy Building + Psychological Manipulation + Strategy Vision, Strategy Logistics]***

S5E3 —

Saul is showing Walter, Jesse, and Mike possible places where to cook meth.

The first place, a printing factory, is almost perfect, but Walter notices the presence of a machine he knows from having worked with it in a high school job. The machine generates a lot of humidity, which would ruin the product. ***[Observation + Crystallized Intelligence, Knowledge + Strategy Logistics + Thinking: Critical, Concrete, Connective]***

The second place is a tortilla factory. Walter rules it out as anything food-related is going to have unannounced government inspections. ***[Strategy Logistics + Logical Prediction, Anticipation + Thinking: Critical, Analytical, Linear/Vertical, Connective + Crystallized Intelligence]***

The final place Saul shows is the headquarters of a fumigation company. Mike and Jesse shoot it down, mainly for the location, but Walter says it's "perfect". This is because he has thought that instead of cooking in the main location, they can cover their activities during the pest control process. The process is that an infested house calls the company, who covers it up and fills it with poison, after which it stays tented for a few days. No one would think to investigate it if a strange smell came out of it, and no one would ever think to get inside. So, while the company does its job, they get the apparatus inside the house and cook, then they dismantle it and leave the house, with no one knowing what happened. Note that the employees of the company are willing accomplices and criminals. Walter thinks of this strategy in a few seconds. ***[Thinking: Critical, Analytical, Linear/Vertical, Lateral/Horizontal, Creative, Convergent, Divergent, Connective, Fast + Long-Term Strategy, Strategy Vision, Strategy Alignment, Strategy Efficiency, Strategy Logistics, Strategy Foresight, Strategy Fortitude, Strategy Building, Strategy Resilience + Processing Speed Index]***

Jesse has Skinny Pete and Badger buy four large cases, in which to store the lab apparatus, from a music shop. The pest control company has an explanation for a

customer's confusion at seeing the massive cases. ***[Strategy Building, Strategy Execution + Strategy Logistics, Strategy Fortitude]***

Walter talks to Jesse about his relationship with Andrea, Brock's mother. Walter talks about it in positive terms, but then introduces the concept that secrets create barriers between people, as he knows from his own experience, and asks Jesse if he intends on telling Andrea the truth, which would include Gale's murder. Walter then says that it should be Jesse's decision whether to tell her, and that he has earned the right to make that decision. This is a subtle seed that Walter has planted in Jesse's mind, and that will sabotage his relationship by making him feel uncomfortable, and while doing this, coming off as a supportive father figure giving his advice and letting Jesse make his choices. Jesse later ends up breaking up with Andrea because of his feelings, as he couldn't just tell her the truth, falling further into Walter's emotional control and becoming more focused on his business. To recap, Walter knew that Jesse's guilt wouldn't allow him to tell Andrea what he did, as he wouldn't want her to see him as a monster, and he also knew that pointing out the contrast between Jesse's criminal life and his romantic life would mean that he wouldn't help but think of that whenever he's around her, leading to an avalanche of negative emotions. This is a very precise psychological mechanism that Walter is exploiting, and it shows his immense understanding of Jesse's mind. What the "negative emotions" are specifically is less important, but it could be anything ranging from Jesse thinking he doesn't deserve to have good people like Andrea and Brock in his life, to him feeling uncomfortable at having a relationship based on lies, to him thinking he's putting them in danger by staying around them. Regardless, Walter predicts that his words will set off the psychological mechanism I mentioned before and that the subsequent emotional load will be too much for Jesse to continue the relationship. At worst, it would still severely damage it. ***[Emotional Manipulation, Psychological Manipulation, Individual Manipulation, Direct Manipulation, Indirect Manipulation, Manipulation Methods (Love Bombing), Acting Skills, Misdirection + Social Engineering + Emotional Facilitation, Emotional Understanding, Psychological Insight, Psychological Warfare + Strategy Effectiveness, Strategy Efficiency, Strategy Fortitude, Tactics, Tactical Potency + Emotional Understanding + Emotional Understanding, Psychological Insight + Intuitive Prediction]***

Skyler has an emotional breakdown in front of Marie, and Marie wants Walt to tell him what happened to her, speculating that he could be gambling again or that the

cancer could be back. Walter realizes he has to give her something or she'll never be satisfied, so he tells her about an incident that Ted was in and that left him hospitalized. Marie initially doesn't understand why that would have an effect on Skyler, but Walter, by acting like he thought she would know, and through his body language, lets her deduce that Skyler was having an affair with Ted, and then immediately starts to defend Skyler, as that reinforces the information's status as a secret and makes Walter seem more sympathetic. This way, Walter made himself the victim of the situation, increasing Marie's sympathy for him, and more importantly, gave Marie an explanation for Skyler's breakdown, preventing her from investigating further on the real reason for it, that being Walter's criminal life, and completes it by making her keep the information to herself, the excuse being that he doesn't want Hank to think less of Skyler or of himself. ***[Emotional Understanding, Psychological Insight + Tactics, Tactical Potency, Strategy Fortitude, Strategy Alignment + Psychological Manipulation, Acting Skills, Verbal & Non-Verbal Deception, Misdirection + Information Control + Acting Skills, Psychological Manipulation + Information Control + Strategy Shielding + Concealment + Information Control + Emotional Manipulation, Direct Manipulation]***

S5E4 —

Walter buys two expensive cars, one for himself and one for Walter Junior. As they talk about the cars, Walter Junior is visibly having fun and bonding. Later, Walter tells Skyler that he knows she doesn't approve, but the expenses fit the story, as Walter's car is a birthday present for himself, and Walter Junior's can be explained by Walter being a "softie", something that people will understand, and both cars are leases and not fully bought. ***[Social Skills, Emotional Facilitation + Psychological Insight, Emotional Perception + Strategy Resilience + Social Awareness]***

Skyler enacts a strategy to get Walter Junior and baby Holly out of Walter's house. She throws herself into the pool, which appears to be some sort of suicide attempt. Later, Marie proposes to Walter that she and Hank take his children for a while, so as to leave Walter and Skyler some space. Walter sees through it, realizing that Skyler suggested this to Marie, but agrees. Walter confronts Skyler about her move, and she makes it clear that she will keep the children out of their house as she deems it dangerous. Walter asks her what she's going to do to stop them from coming back after a few days at Hank and Marie's. She says that she may hurt

herself to make it clear she needs more time, but he answers that she will use that to send her to a facility instead. She then says that she could show up with bruises and pass that off as Walter beating her because of her affair, but Walter calls her bluff, as she wouldn't want Walter Junior to think his father is a wife-beater. Grasping at straws, Skyler says that she could send Walter Junior away to a boarding school, but Walter knows that Walter Junior wouldn't accept leaving his friends and his year left of high school behind. This works as a way to wear her down and make her give up on her attempts, though she still resents him, and forces her to give up on any attempt and simply wait for the cancer to kill him. ***[Emotional Perception, Seeing Through People + Abductive Reasoning, Intuition, Thinking: Analytical, Linear/Vertical, Connective, Fast + Strategy Control, Strategy Shielding, Formulation Speed, Adaptability, Tactics + Emotional Understanding, Psychological Insight + Logical Prediction + Emotional Understanding, Psychological Insight + Psychological Warfare, Emotional Facilitation + Emotional Manipulation, Direct Manipulation, Individual Manipulation]***

Mike has been having trouble with a former collaborator of Gus's, Lydia, who was the main source of methylamine. Despite Lydia's behavior having brought Mike close to killing her, he agreed to spare her life if she could give Walter's operation a steady source of methylamine. However, as Jesse goes to get a barrel from Lydia, she spots a tracker planted on the bottom of it. Later, when told, Mike thinks that this is an attempt by Lydia to deter them from working with her and intends to kill Lydia, to which Jesse protests, eventually asking Walter for his input. Walter says that the methylamine has to keep flowing and that nothing should kill their business's momentum, and comes up with a strategy, which will be explained in the next episode. ***[Determination, Emotional Engagement + Formulation Speed]***

S5E5 —

Walter shows up at Hank's office, wanting to talk to him. He apologizes for the intrusion and compliments the new office, setting a positive atmosphere. After some small talk, Walter thanks Hank for keeping his children and asks him if he could go see them, sowing the seeds in Hank's mind that Walter misses them. Then, through silence and facial expressions, Walter lets Hank pick up on the fact that he has something else on his mind. Walter says that Skyler doesn't love him anymore and

thinks he's a bad father, and as he says that, he breaks down in tears. Hank, being more of a macho-style man, feels uncomfortable at the breakdown and tries to comfort Walter with nice words, while also closing the blinds. Walter knows that due to his personality, Hank doesn't like to be seen in a vulnerable state, a behavior that he has shown in the past for himself, and that he would therefore try to hide Walter's vulnerability, feeling sympathetic to him. Walter reinforces the uncomfortable feelings by making physical contact, which prompts Hank to offer to go get a coffee, an excuse to leave the room and hope Walter recomposes himself by the time he comes back, to which Walter agrees. All of this, in reality, was a strategy by Walter, who used his current family situation to his advantage, as he knew Hank would feel uncomfortable and leave the room, likely shutting down the blinds as well, giving Walter the opportunity to plant a bug in his office. Walter chooses a photo of Hank and Marie as the hiding spot, which proves to be useful later when Hank comes in as Walter is still holding the photo, and Walter has the easy excuse of looking at it because of the good relationship the two have, compared to him and Skyler. Walter also places himself in a way so that his back would be hiding what he is doing in case Hank came back sooner than expected. Walter is still able to keep his act and not betray himself despite almost being caught. To think of this strategy, Walter had to connect his goals with a possible opportunity he could take by recognizing established patterns in Hank's behavior and choosing the correct moves to make in order to take advantage of it. ***[Psychological Manipulation, Emotional Manipulation, Direct Manipulation, Indirect Manipulation, Individual Manipulation, Acting Skills, Verbal & Non-Verbal Deception, Misdirection + Information Control + Emotional Understanding, Psychological Insight, Hot Reading, Emotional Perception, Emotional Facilitation + Emotional Manipulation, Direct Manipulation + Tactics, Tactical Potency, Planning Accuracy, Planning Versatility, Planning Intricacies, Strategy Fortitude, Strategy Alignment, Strategy Building, Strategy Execution, Strategy Orchestration + Strategy Adaptability, Planning Contingencies + Strategy Shielding, Tactics + Misdirection, Concealment, Acting Skills, Emotional Manipulation + Visual-Spatial Index + Stress Tolerance, Emotional Management + Thinking: Analytical, Critical, Convergent, Divergent, Abstract, Creative, Linear/Vertical, Lateral/Horizontal, Connective + Crystallized Intelligence]***

The main reason for the bug was to make sure Lydia is really behind the tracker. Walter, Mike, and Jesse provide her with a realistic script to follow and have her get on a call with Hank to confront him about the tracker, under threat of death should

she make him suspicious in any way. Hank, via the bug, gives confirmation that he didn't have any trackers planted. To this, the crew settles on stealing the barrels using Lydia's access codes. However, Hank gets on a call with the Houston police, who reveal it was they who planted the trackers, one on each barrel. Mike still wants to kill her as he thinks she would turn on them at the first chance, and reveals that she had put out a hit on him. To save herself, Lydia tells Walter and Jesse that she can help them get their hands on a large quantity of methylamine, which they now need, as they now know that every barrel is being tracked and can't plan on stealing them anymore. Walter decides to speak to Lydia alone. He takes the opportunity to find out why she'd put a hit on Mike, before having her explain her idea. ***[Strategy Alignment, Strategy Shielding, Planning Versatility, Planning Coverage + Verbal Comprehension Index + Concealment, Misdirection + Information Gathering + Planning Aim, Strategy Effectiveness + Strategy Vision + Information Gathering]***

➢ **Train Heist Plan**

Lydia proposes that the crew pull off a heist based on this information:

- ➔ A train loaded with methylamine will pass through New Mexico soon.
- ➔ The area in question is a "dark area", meaning no contact of any kind is possible from the train.
- ➔ She can provide the crew with the information on which train car contains the methylamine.
- ➔ Two men compose the train's crew.

Based on this, Mike concludes that the only way to pull off the heist properly would be to kill the two men, something that neither he or Jesse would be adamant with, and proposes that they simply ditch the methylamine and go back to the older recipe, but Walter can't accept the loss in revenue. During the argument, Jesse comes up with the idea to make a heist nobody even finds out about.

The plan is as follows:

- ➔ The train will be stopped by a truck malfunctioning on a railroad crossing.
- ➔ Having measured the distance between the crossing, where the head of the train will be, and the train car where the methylamine is stored,

the crew has two tanks buried in the ground, one empty and one full of water.

- ➔ When the train stops, Walter, Jesse, and Todd, one of the people from the pest control company who now works for them, are to collect a portion of the methylamine from the train car and replace it with water in a proportionate quantity so that the weight stays the same and no one will question the methylamine content when it's weighed in the next train stop. Someone is bound to notice that the methylamine is slightly watered down, but since water and methylamine have similar chemical structures, and the total amount of water in the tank will be 1/24th, when the methylamine arrives to destination it will just look like a bad batch and if anyone is blamed, it will be the producers in China, so the heist will be completely concealed.
- ➔ To be more accurate to reality, Walter calculates the amount of water to fill the tank to account for spillage and what remains in the hose, not just the mathematical proportion.
- ➔ Mike is to monitor the situation from afar, so that he can warn Walter and the others about any unexpected development.
- ➔ The train crew will go help Walter's man with the truck, both for courtesy and more importantly, to get the truck out of the way and continue their job, at which point they will be distracted, and the operation can begin. Since the zone is a dark area, the train crew can't call anyone else to assist them with moving the truck, and moreover, it makes it realistic that the man on the truck wasn't able to call for help.
- ➔ A truck was chosen instead of a car because it's harder to push, which is the simplest solution the train crew could come up with after failing to get it started.

[Planning Accuracy, Planning Versatility, Planning Preparation, Planning Coverage, Strategy Efficiency, Strategy Building + Logical Prediction, Anticipation + Planning Coverage, Planning Invincibility, Planning Intricacies, Strategy Resilience, Strategy Foresight + Knowledge, Knowledge Application + Logical Prediction + Concealment + Thinking: Critical, Divergent, Concrete + Planning Accuracy, Planning Coverage, Strategy Logistics + Planning Coverage, Planning Versatility, Strategy Adaptability + Logical Prediction + Planning Accuracy, Strategy Fortitude + Social Awareness + Logical Manipulation, Indirect Manipulation + Planning Coverage, Strategy Resilience, Strategy Fortitude, Strategy

***Alignment** + **Planning Accuracy, Strategy Logistics** + **Thinking: Critical, Analytical, Divergent, Convergent, Lateral/Horizontal, Linear/Vertical** + **Crystallized Intelligence, Fluid Intelligence**]*

During the process, a man shows up offering to push the truck off the tracks with his car. Mike warns Walter to end the operation, but there is still some methylamine left to take to reach the desired amount, so Walter keeps the development from Jesse and Todd in order to get all of it despite the risk. In the end, Walter has managed to collect 1000 gallons of methylamine, more than enough for the foreseeable future. *[**Determination, Stress Tolerance, Emotional Management, Emotional Engagement** + **Planning Aim, Strategy Effectiveness**]*

S5E6 —

After the heist, the crew had spotted a 14-year-old boy waving at them. Todd, without notice, pulled out a gun and shot the boy dead. Jesse now hates Todd and resents the whole meth operation due to this.

During a lunch break in a cooking session, Jesse sees the news talking about the boy. Walter notices his distress, and after attempting to ensure that, thanks to their control over the operation, they will be able to stop anything like the death of the boy from happening again, he offers to finish cooking alone to get Jesse some time off. *[**Emotional Perception** + **Emotional Facilitation**]*

Mike reveals that the DEA has been tailing him. Walter scolds him for keeping the information from him, and then corrects himself and says “us”, including Jesse, thereby putting him on his side and creating tension between him and Mike in the context of the conversation. This has no effect, but only because Jesse was planning to leave the operation together with Mike. *[**Tactics** + **Psychological Manipulation**]*

Jesse and Mike want to sell their share of methylamine for 5 million dollars to a man named Declan, who has his own meth operation and is motivated to take the blue meth out of the market. However, Declan deduces that there is a third associate who has his own share of methylamine and tells Mike that the deal is off until he can get the entire supply. Jesse comes to Walter’s house and tries to

convince him to sell his share as well and get out of the meth business, but Walter refuses, motivating the choice with the fact that when he was younger he sold out his share of a company that he co-founded and that is now worth millions. Skyler then comes back home and is surprised to see Jesse, who immediately decides to leave, but Walter insists that he have dinner with them. This is because he knows that it will be extremely awkward and a show of how loveless his marriage has become. After Skyler leaves, Walter confesses that she made him kick his kids out of his house and is waiting for him to die from his cancer, and having demonstrated how much she hates him, he tells Jesse that his business is all he has left, accusing him of trying to take that away from him. ***[Crystallized Intelligence + Emotional Engagement + Tactics, Strategy Alignment, Strategy Efficiency + Logical Prediction + Emotional Understanding, Psychological Insight + Psychological Manipulation, Emotional Manipulation, Individual Manipulation, Direct Manipulation, Indirect Manipulation, Manipulation Methods (Guilt-tripping)]***

Walter tries to steal the methylamine to employ a strategy and fix the situation, but Mike anticipates him and restrains him in the office with a zip-tie before leaving. Walter has nothing on him, so most people would be helpless and resigned, but he immediately starts looking around for anything he could use to escape. He sees a coffee machine and thinks of using the glass from the jug to cut the zip-tie. He struggles to reach it and is only able to get the machine by tugging at its wire with his foot, but the jug falls too far. Still, he's able to adapt to the failure of his earlier adaptation, as he thinks to use the wire instead to burn the zip-tie with the electricity. He has to endure the pain of electricity and burning plastic on his wrist, but he's successful and manages to escape. He thinks of these solutions in a few seconds, processing the contents of the room and visualizing details about them that could be useful to his goal. ***[Emotional Management, Emotional Engagement, Stress Tolerance, Mental Fortitude, Perseverance, Determination, Cognitive Discipline + Tactics, Adaptability, Improvisation, Strategy Efficiency + Adaptability, Improvisation + Thinking: Critical, Divergent, Lateral/Horizontal, Linear/Vertical, Creative, Connective + Knowledge, Knowledge Application, Crystallized Intelligence, Fluid Intelligence + Tactics, Strategy Control, Strategy Efficiency + Emotional Management, Perseverance + Processing Speed Index, Fluid Reasoning Index, Visual-Spatial Intelligence]***

Having escaped, Walter hides the methylamine and calls Jesse to explain a strategy he has come up with and which will come into play next episode. Mike comes back

to the office and sees the methylamine missing. He is immediately furious and puts his gun up to Walter's head, who keeps completely calm while Jesse scrambles to tell Mike about Walter's idea and convince him to put the gun down, which Walter knows will get Mike to listen, because while he doesn't trust him, he trusts Jesse. ***[Strategy Alignment, Strategy Building, Strategy Vision + Emotional Management, Composure, Stress Tolerance + Logical Prediction + Psychological Insight]***

S5E7 —

Consider this:

- ➔ Mike and Jesse don't know where the methylamine is, practically forcing them into the strategy.
- ➔ Declan is expecting to get his 1000 gallons during the set meeting.
- ➔ Walter knows that Declan wants to get his meth out of the market. He also knows that his cooks have been trying to emulate his formula and have even been using food colorant to make their meth blue like Walter's. This means that Declan recognizes the value of Walter's meth.
- ➔ Declan is also trying to expand his operation to New Mexico.
- ➔ Since Mike is leaving, Walter doesn't have proper distribution anymore.

Walter meets with Declan and declares that he's holding the methylamine and that he won't be selling it. He offers Declan a new deal, one where he handles the distribution in exchange for 35% of the profit. Declan finds it ridiculous, but Walter remains confident and points out all the ways in which Declan has been trying to emulate his meth, saying that now he can sell the real thing, meaning customers will pay more. An unspoken side of this deal is also that Declan would get an immediate expansion into New Mexico's business. While he's speaking, Walter initially says that the deal would give access to "the greatest meth cook in America", but then corrects himself and says "the two greatest meth cooks in America", including Jesse and thereby flattering him. Walter can see that Declan is starting to consider the offer. At this point, Declan asks Walter who he is, and Walter declares that he and everyone else there know exactly who he is and asks him to say his name. He knows this because he understands how reputation works and how rumors spread, and anyone in the criminal world is likely to have heard of him. Declan is confused at first, and Walter tells him that he's "the cook" and "the man who killed Gus Fring". Declan doesn't believe this, but a nod from Mike makes him

change his mind. Walter likely knew that because of who Mike is, he could confirm the information in Declan's eyes, which is why he remained confident despite Declan's skepticism. At this point, Walter is sure that Declan knows and once again commands, "Say my name". Hesitantly, almost whispering, Declan answers, "You're Heisenberg". The sheer power of reputation behind that name is enough to close the deal, probably with a level of intimidation, since Declan is now sure that Heisenberg killed Gus. Walter has successfully talked Declan into the deal, getting himself new distribution as well as Mike's 5 million, and now his reputation can only grow stronger. With this solution, Walter used his judgment to align a series of complications and use them to his advantage. ***[Inductive Reasoning + Long-Term Strategy, Strategy Alignment, Strategy Efficiency, Strategy Building, Strategy Fortitude + Logical Manipulation, Direct Manipulation, Individual Manipulation, Mass Manipulation, Persuasion + Logical Manipulation, Mass Manipulation + Logical Manipulation, Persuasion, Psychological Manipulation, Manipulation Methods (Flattery) + Emotional Perception + Intuitive Prediction + Social Awareness, Social Cognition + Strategy Fortitude + Psychological Insight + Emotional Perception + Persuasion, Intimidation + Aura + Intimidation + Social Skills, Charisma + Persuasion + Strategy Effectiveness, Strategy Control + Influence Building + Thinking: Critical, Analytical, Linear/Vertical, Lateral/Horizontal, Divergent, Convergent + Crystallized Intelligence]***

Jesse tries to remind Walter that he's also leaving the business as a response to his flattery during the deal, and questions him about his own 5 million dollars, which Walter hadn't requested from Declan, unlike Mike's. Walter tells Jesse that they'll figure it out and asks him to give him some time and help him during the transition, framing the situation in a way that would make Jesse feel bad about insisting. Walter does this in hopes that Jesse will change his mind. ***[Emotional Manipulation, Psychological Manipulation, Individual Manipulation, Direct Manipulation, Manipulation Methods (Guilt-tripping) + Tactics, Tactical Synergy]***

To convince Jesse to stay, Walter uses a series of tactics:

- ➔ He first proposes that Jesse run his own lab, saying that he deserves it and that he's just as good as he is. This is, once again, to flatter Jesse and make him feel good about himself, but only as an extension of his cooking skills.
- ➔ When Jesse says that he just wants to get his money and get out of the business, Walter warns him that being the best at something is a very rare

thing, and leaving the meth business would be squandering his potential for nothing.

- ➔ In a very direct way, he asks Jesse what he intends to do after he leaves, and Jesse, caught off guard, doesn't know. Walter uses this to frame leaving as the bad and childish choice, as according to him, Jesse would only be left with "go karts and video games". Continuing down this path, Walter asks Jesse how long until he'll get tired of that empty life and start using drugs again.
- ➔ Then he changes approach and tackles the real reason Jesse intends to leave the business, that being the death of the boy. Walter claims that he's just as upset as Jesse is. When Jesse questions this, Walter tries to make him feel bad for that by being angry at the questioning and claiming that he's the one who's a father, meaning he would care just as much as Jesse, if not more. He then attacks further, claiming that just because he doesn't seem depressed like Jesse, it doesn't mean he hasn't suffered for the death of the boy, which is now in the past, instead focusing on going on, which in context, he implies to be the correct way to cope with it, instead of Jesse's more emotional way, which he frames as giving up and lying down.
- ➔ Walter continues by saying that what he and Jesse have done is just as bad as what Todd has done, mentioning Gale to resurface Jesse's guilt and use it to wear down his desire to do good by claiming that they're both already going to Hell if it exists.
- ➔ When Jesse asks how many people are going to die because of them, Walter once again tries to argue that since they're in control, no one will die anymore, but Jesse doesn't believe it and doubles down on wanting to get his money and leave.
- ➔ Walter, however, doesn't let that slide, and playing on Jesse's logic, points out that it's "filthy blood money" and that Jesse shouldn't want it, and so he'd be doing him a favor by keeping it. Of course, with the cut being something Jesse has suffered to get, his mind would immediately fill with the desire to fight for it. So at that point, Walter, knowing what his words have caused in Jesse's mind, continues by saying that despite it being blood money, Jesse does want it, and he's not wrong for that. He tells Jesse to stay in order to make that much money and much more in the future. Another, much simpler layer to this is that, should Jesse still choose to leave, he'd get nothing of his money.

➔ None of this works in the end, and Jesse leaves. The tactics themselves are still incredibly shrewd and valid, but in his situation, Jesse was simply never going to stay.

[Emotional Manipulation, Psychological Manipulation, Logical Manipulation, Individual Manipulation, Direct Manipulation, Manipulation Methods (Gaslighting), Negotiation, Acting Skills + Psychological Warfare + Emotional Understanding + Emotional Facilitation, Emotional Understanding, Psychological Warfare + Emotional Understanding, Emotional Facilitation, Psychological Insight, Psychological Warfare]

With Jesse gone, Todd takes his place as Walter's cooking partner. While Todd knows nothing about chemistry, not even having studied it in high school, Walter gets him to apply himself and manages to explain to him the complex process of cooking, with relatively good results. ***[Emotional Facilitation + Verbal Comprehension Index]***

To avoid the bug getting caught in a sweep at Hank's office, Walter successfully plays his trick again. ***[Tactics]***

The lawyer Mike chose to pay off his men in prison is taken by the DEA and flips on him. He manages to escape but he can't retrieve his go-bag without being seen, so he calls Saul to do it for him. Saul refuses, as it would put him in a bad spot, and Jesse offers to go instead. Mike doesn't want him to risk exposure, so Walter offers to go, knowing that Mike wouldn't care if he ran the risk, and also argues to Jesse that he shouldn't do it, since he has quit. This is because Walter wants to get the name of Mike's men, who are now a threat as Mike can't pay them off anymore. As Walter gets the go-bag, he checks inside and sees a gun. He decides to take the gun away, likely to ensure he has the upper hand in case of an escalation, something that is likely given Walter's goal to get the names from Mike, who has been protective of his men in the past. ***[Emotional Understanding, Psychological Insight + Tactics + Strategy Alignment, Strategy Control + Strategy Foresight + Foresight + Emotional Understanding, Psychological Insight]***

After a heated discussion, Walter shoots Mike, killing him. He remembers then that he can still get the names of the nine men from Lydia. ***[Adaptability, Strategy Control]***

S5E8 —

Walter gets the names from Lydia. Initially, he was planning to kill her with the ricin, which would remove the final loose end from the picture, but he decides against that when she offers him a new business direction to sell meth in the Czech Republic. ***[Strategy Shielding, Strategy Foresight + Thinking: Critical + Strategy Alignment]***

In order to get the job done, Walter contacts Todd's Uncle Jack, who's the head of a neo-Nazi gang and has men in all the three prisons where the 10 targets are (9 of Mike's men plus the lawyer, who is also in jail now). Walter wants all the targets to be killed within two minutes. This is because he knows that when the prison guards see who is getting killed and report it, the police will figure out that they're all the ones connected to Gus and will put the rest under protection before they can get killed. Jack tells Walter that it's impossible to do the job the way he wants, to which Walter calmly replies that it can be done exactly the way he wants and that the only question is if Jack is the man to do it, which plays both on Jack's pride and makes the deal, and the money he could get from it, seem volatile, pushing him to figure out how to organize the killings. This is not the last time Walter will poke at Jack's pride to manipulate him, and while the next example of manipulation (S5E16) more outwardly requires a grasp on Jack's psyche, this being a pattern suggests that Walter was already aware of this core trait of Jack's. This would mean Walter, after a single interaction, already profiled Jack as someone with a strong sense of pride, likely from the fact that he's a Neo-Nazi (pointing to Aryan pride and a general belief of superiority), from the way he carries himself around his peers, and how he speaks to Walter himself. ***[Strategy Building, Strategy Efficiency, Strategy Logistics, Planning Preparation + Strategy Resilience, Strategy Foresight, Strategy Logistics, Planning Coverage, Planning Accuracy + Logical Prediction, Anticipation + Composure + Psychological Manipulation, Emotional Manipulation, Logical Manipulation, Individual Manipulation, Direct Manipulation + Emotional Facilitation + Strategy Building, Strategy Control + Emotional Perception, Emotional Understanding]***

Walter's operation continues to go smoothly for three months, until he has made a pile of money so big that Skyler has had to rent a garage just to store it. ***[Strategy Effectiveness]***

Walter goes to visit Jesse. There's a bong on the table, and Jesse takes it away as Walter enters, but not before he notices it. He smirks, seeing that his prediction that Jesse would go back to drugs after abandoning the business due to his life becoming empty and meaningless was correct. However, his reason for being there is to leave Jesse with a positive final interaction and tie up that loose end. They talk about the RV for a while, then as Walter leaves, he tells Jesse that he left something for him, that being his 5 million dollars. ***[Observation + Intuitive Prediction + Emotional Understanding, Psychological Insight + Strategy Foresight, Strategy Shielding + Emotional Manipulation]***

Walter finds out that the cancer is back, meaning he doesn't have much time to live. Having earned all the money he needed and more, and feeling content and satisfied on the business side, Walter decides to leave the meth business after roughly one year and a half, focusing on rebuilding the relationship with his family, specifically Skyler, instead, so that he can die surrounded by a happy family. Despite the consequent emotions of the returning cancer, Walter is able to keep up appearances and hide it from his family, seeming happier and more serene than ever. ***[Self-Awareness + Strategy Length + Relationship Management, Emotional Engagement + Emotional Management, Stress Tolerance, Mental Fortitude, Composure, Emotional Engagement + Acting Skills, Concealment]***

S5E9 —

To launder his money more quickly, Walter intends to buy a second car wash, which is consistent with the story of a successful car wash. He's able to phrase the idea to Skyler convincingly. ***[Long-Term Strategy, Strategy Building + Strategy Logistics, Strategy Adaptability, Strategy Alignment + Persuasion]***

Lydia comes to the car wash, trying to convince Walter to teach her new cooks how to produce better meth, but he refuses. Skyler deduces that Lydia is not a simple customer and asks Walter who she really is, to which he tells her. She then leaves, and Walter, noticing her expression, follows her, curious to see what she'll do. ***[Emotional Perception]***

Walter finds out from Saul that Jesse wants to give away his money and goes to visit him, so as to try to make him change his mind. Once again, he tries to move Jesse past the guilt for the dead boy, telling him that they can't change what they've done and they can only try to move forward, and to live regular, decent lives. To make his point stronger, he reveals to Jesse that he has left the meth business too. One of the people Jesse wanted to give his money away to was Mike's granddaughter, which makes Walter think that Jesse might suspect that he killed Mike. It's possible for Jesse to have deduced that, as Lydia had already based on the fact that Mike wouldn't let the killing of his men in jail slide. Walter understands that, should Jesse really suspect that, it would greatly undermine his trust in him in the future, and decides to find out if Jesse really believes that, and in case to deny it, by asking him why he wanted to give money to Mike's granddaughter. Jesse lets out his suspicions, and Walter, hiding the great amount of guilt he's feeling, gives a very convincing act of denial, but he realizes that Jesse does not believe him because he's looking away from Walter during the whole conversation, so Walter continues to say that he needs Jesse to believe him, playing on their past relationship and fostering guilt in Jesse's mind. Walter is showing vulnerability by outright revealing a "need" of his, which, playing on Jesse's doubt, would paint not believing Walter as an attack at the most personal level. ***[Positive Manipulation, Emotional Manipulation + Abductive Reasoning, Thinking: Critical, Linear/Vertical, Holistic + Emotional Understanding, Psychological Insight + Logical Prediction + Information Gathering + Strategy Shielding + Tactics + Emotional Management + Acting Skills + Emotional Perception + Emotional Manipulation, Psychological Manipulation, Direct Manipulation, Individual Manipulation, Manipulation Methods (Guilt-tripping)]***

Walter feels ill during the dinner due to chemotherapy and goes to the bathroom. When he gets the urge to vomit, he's still lucid enough to think to open the water to cover the sound from his family. ***[Emotional Management, Composure, Cognitive Discipline + Thinking: Critical, Lateral/Horizontal, Concrete + Tactics + Concealment]***

While he's in the bathroom, Walter notices that a book that was gifted to him by Gale and that contained a "W.W." inscription like the one found in Gale's house, though this time, truly dedicated to Walter, is missing. Hank had been feeling ill the past few days, and Walter remembers that the last place he was before leaving Walter's house was the bathroom. From this, Walter realizes that Hank must've

randomly found the book, opened it, read the inscription, and recognized it to be written by Gale, therefore figuring out that Walter is Heisenberg. Walter doesn't find the book anywhere in his house. He thinks that should Hank be onto him, he may have planted a tracker under his car like he did with Gus, so he goes to check and finds it, confirming his suspicions. ***[Observation, Abductive Reasoning, Thinking: Critical, Analytical, Linear/Vertical, Holistic, Associative + Inductive Reasoning, Thinking: Analytical, Linear/Vertical, Connective + Crystallized Intelligence + Logical Prediction + Information Gathering]***

Walter goes to confront Hank about the tracker. As he gets out of his car, he bumps into two DEA agents who had brought some files to Hank. Walter and the agents have a very friendly interaction, clearly getting along very well and showing how much Walter has integrated himself with them. Walter starts talking with Hank casually, trying to test the waters to guess how much Hank suspects and how serious his suspicions are. Despite Hank doing his best to appear unperturbed, Walter clearly picks up on the fear and the tension. As they speak, Walter casually throws in that "Skyler will be happy to hear that [Hank is] feeling better", which would take Hank's mind back to Skyler's emotional state not too long prior and to how she was able to pull herself together. Walter uses this tactic in hopes of creating guilt in a part of Hank, who from this perspective could see his suspicions as a threat to the well-being of the family. Walter asks Hank about the tracker, to which Hank punches him in the face and pins him to the wall, finally giving voice to all of his suspicions. Walter reinforces once again the idea that the accusations could destroy the family, and acts as if they're absurd, but Hank is already convinced, having spent the last week looking at all the evidence and connecting the dots. Walter is left with nothing to do but use the pity card, telling him that his cancer is back. This, in the best-case scenario, would make Hank hesitate to accuse a dying man. If that doesn't work, Walter can use his cancer as argumentation, as since he's soon going to be dead, he would never see the inside of a cell, making the uphill battle of convincing anyone of what is, at the moment, an absurd theory, completely futile. Hank tells Walter that "he doesn't know who [Walter is]", and Walter spins the sentence to his advantage, saying that if that's true, then Hank's best course would be to "tread lightly". During all this, Walter manages to remain relatively calm after just being punched in the face by one of the closest people in his life, who also told him that it's good that he will die of cancer and he should rot in Hell. After the conversation, Walter is more motivated than ever to keep Hank from arresting him or taking away the money he made. ***[Social Skills, Social***

Integration + Information Gathering + Emotional Perception + Emotional Manipulation, Psychological Manipulation, Manipulation Methods (Gaslighting) + Emotional Manipulation, Acting Skills + Emotional Manipulation, Sophistry, Psychological Manipulation, Manipulation Methods (Gaslighting) + Tactics, Tactical Potency + Tactics + Intimidation + Emotional Management, Emotional Engagement, Mental Fortitude, Composure]

S5E10 —

When he leaves Hank's house, Walter is internally stressed out of his mind, as he wants to contact Skyler before Hank does, as he figures Hank will want to pull a confession out of her. However, Walter keeps composure, continuing to keep his intimidating stare and not letting his stress show until Hank closes the garage door. ***[Anticipation + Emotional Management, Composure]***

Hank is quicker to call Skyler, and Walter can't find her at the car wash. From that, he realizes that she went to talk to him. He doesn't know how much she'll tell her, but given that she knows where the money is, Walter and Saul prepare for the worst by having Huell and another of Saul's men take the money away, so that Hank can't use it for evidence in case Skyler tells him where to find it. Walter has another goal with this, as by now he knows his family life is destroyed and he suspects that Skyler intends to help Hank, so he intends to give himself in, as he doesn't have much to life anyway, but only after making Skyler promise to keep the money and pass it down to their children. He hides this second angle from Saul, who would have much to say about it. Upon collecting the money, Huell proposes to the other that they could take the money and flee to Mexico, but the other answers by mentioning the killing of the ten men as part of Walter's reputation, which is enough deterrent. They store the money in barrels and put it in a van, which Walter then takes and drives into the desert to go and bury the barrels. Walter has to dig a large pit under the desert sun, and keep in mind he's having chemotherapy, to ensure his goal. He puts the dirt back on in a way that looks natural and doesn't let on that there's something hidden below. He reads the coordinates once and memorizes them. That's six numbers for a total of thirteen digits. When he returns home, he writes down the coordinates by inserting them as numbers in a lottery ticket. ***[Abductive Reasoning + Strategy Shielding, Strategy Foresight, Strategy Control + Anticipation + Strategy Alignment, Strategy***

Building, Strategy Control, Strategy Adaptability, Strategy Complexity + Concealment, Misdirection + Aura + Emotional Management, Mental Fortitude, Perseverance, Determination, Emotional Engagement + Strategy Resilience + Concealment + Working Memory Index + Strategy Logistics, Tactics + Concealment]

S5E11 —

Walter is scrambling to hide a black eye he got after fainting with some makeup to hide it from Walter Junior, when he hears from him that Marie called him over to help her with her computer. Walter realizes that Marie is doing this to take Walter Junior away, so he gives up on hiding the black eye to stop Walter Junior from leaving. He tells him about his fainting and reveals that the cancer is back. He plays it down, trying to convey optimism, both to minimize the impact on Walter Junior and to play the role of a father who wouldn't want his son to worry, but the concern this revelation planted in Walter Junior's mind is enough to make him decide to stay with him instead of going to Marie's. Doing this, Walter plays on Walter Junior's love for him and his fear of losing him, and has to war with the guilt he feels for manipulating his son that way, thinking it's worth it in order to maintain their relationship. ***[Concealment + Abductive Reasoning + Anticipation + Improvisation, Formulation Speed, Tactics, Tactical Potency, Strategy Alignment, Strategy Fortitude, Strategy Efficiency + Emotional Manipulation, Individual Manipulation, Direct Manipulation + Emotional Facilitation + Strategy Effectiveness + Emotional Understanding, Emotional Management, Emotional Engagement]***

To prevent Hank from spreading his suspicions to the DEA, and as a deterrent, Walter films a video in which he crafts the narrative that it was Hank who ran the meth empire, using Walter as a chemist.

- ➔ Walter mixes a lot of truth in, like the fact that he joined the operation to make money after finding out about the cancer.
- ➔ According to the story, Hank worked with Gus and had a falling out, which gives a reasonable explanation for Hank getting shot by the Twins.
- ➔ Notably, Walter mentioned that he paid for Hank's treatment, something that is both true and verifiable, giving the story a degree of credibility.

- ➔ Another piece of evidence that Walter uses is his black eye, saying that Hank gave it to him after he told him that he wanted to quit. It's likely that Hank's colleagues noticed his bruised knuckles, which Walter may have counted on.
- ➔ The period when Walter's children lived with Hank is also brought up, reframed as an instance of Hank putting Walter in his place. In general, Walter mentions how truly evil and cruel Hank has been, passing him off as a monster who threatened his family on occasions and has made Walter's life a living hell.
- ➔ Throughout all this, Walter displays impressive acting skills, crying on command, and generally being able to convincingly fake strong emotions at a level on par with professional actors. With some of the things he says, he draws upon some of his real emotions, as the situations mentioned were sometimes close to reality.
- ➔ This story, just like Hank's, has very little evidence to support it, but it's a way Walter has of showing that Hank has nothing against him. Mentioning the treatment makes sure that the threat posed by the video is tangible and prevents Hank from giving the video to the DEA to get ahead of Walter.

Walter and Skyler invite Hank and Marie to talk at a restaurant. There, Walter tries once again to argue that it's best to keep Walter Junior in the dark, as it's very likely he'll be dead before Hank can arrest him. Supporting his argument is the fact that Walter Junior has just "found out" about the cancer returning. During the conversation, the best-case scenario would've been to negotiate and convince Hank not to continue investigating, but since Walter knew this was not gonna work, he prepared the video as a failsafe. ***[Short-Term Strategy, Strategy Control, Strategy Efficiency, Strategy Building, Strategy Foresight + Logical Manipulation + Fabrication, Misdirection + Strategy Alignment + Acting Skills, Verbal & Non-Verbal Deception + Emotional Engagement + Strategy Fortitude, Strategy Logistics, Strategy Resilience + Emotional Manipulation + Strategy Alignment + Logical Prediction + Planning Contingencies]***

With Hank on the lookout for any evidence, Walter decides to remove Jesse from the picture, as Hank knows about his close involvement both with Heisenberg and with Walter himself, and Jesse has recently been through significant emotional turmoil that damaged his loyalty to Walter. The fact that Hank was able to confront Jesse after he was arrested only adds to the urgency. To do this, Walter decides to use the disappearer that Saul told him about. He gets Saul to bail Jesse out and to drive him to a faraway point in the desert and checks for trackers on both his

(presumably) and Saul's car. Walter sells the change of life to Jesse as a great opportunity to leave all the trauma behind and make use of a life still in its youth, even painting the possibility of starting from zero as enviable by saying that he'd switch places if he could. Jesse sees through Walter's words and gets angry, stating that he thinks Walter would just kill him if he didn't agree to leave. It's worth mentioning that Walter had no intention to kill Jesse here, and he probably viewed his words more as argumentation than true manipulation. Seeing Jesse close to tears, Walter moves in to hug him. The hug probably worked as a way for Walter to wordlessly state that he wouldn't kill Jesse, and perhaps to try and show him that he did care about his well-being. Jesse is visibly uncomfortable, but he does accept Walter's conditions in the end. Note that in his position, after all he's been through, Jesse would truly want a chance to start over. ***[Strategy Control, Strategy Logistics, Strategy Shielding + Emotional Understanding + Strategy Efficiency, Strategy Building + Foresight + Psychological Manipulation, Emotional Manipulation, Direct Manipulation + Emotional Perception + Emotional Manipulation, Individual Manipulation + Emotional Understanding]***

As Jesse is preparing to be picked up by the disappearer, he notices that Saul had Huell lift a bag of meth from him, which causes him to realize that his original guess that Huell was the one to take the ricin cigarette from him was true, and that Walter had actually lied to him about it. He goes to beat up Saul and then leaves, holding a gun. Walter learns this from Saul and immediately figures that Jesse might be going to his house to get revenge, as in Jesse's mind the most probable connection to make is to Walter's loved ones, since it's Jesse's loved ones who Walter harmed. Walter rushes to the car wash, clearly stressed out of his mind, but as soon as he enters the car wash, he makes his stress disappear completely, keeping up a calm and casual act so as not to worry Skyler. He quickly finds an excuse to access the inside of a vending machine, as that's where he had hidden his gun, so that he can retrieve it and rush to his house in hopes of finding Jesse. ***[Anticipation + Abductive Reasoning, Thinking: Analytical, Connective, Abstract, Holistic, Linear/Vertical + Emotional Management, Stress Tolerance, Composure + Acting Skills + Fabrication + Tactics, Strategy Shielding]***

S5E12 —

Walter arrives at his house and sees Saul's car left in the front, confirming that Jesse has been there. Walter sneaks in from a secondary entrance but doesn't find him, though there are traces of him having been there as the door is broken and gasoline was spilled all over the floor. During all this, Walter, while visibly shaken and careful in all his moves, doesn't back off or hesitate to protect his household, despite knowing that Jesse is currently armed and emotionally unstable. Walter decides to inspect Saul's car and finds a disc, on which he notices traces of meth, meaning that Jesse is high on drugs at the moment. ***[Tactics + Emotional Management, Composure, Stress Tolerance, Determination + Observation, Inductive Reasoning + Crystallized Intelligence]***

Walter immediately gets someone to fix the door and to clean the carpet to eliminate evidence of what happened, knowing that Skyler would become fearful and panicked if she heard that someone was coming for the family. In the meantime, Walter has Saul's men stay at the car wash and even check on Walter Junior's high school in case Jesse shows up there. The cleaners tell Walter that the gasoline smell can't be removed short of changing the carpet, so Walter has to scramble to find an excuse for what happened. He covers his clothes and his car seat in gasoline, using the tank Jesse left there, then disposes of the tank in a neighbor's trash instead of his own, so that Skyler and Walter Junior won't ever find it. This is to sell the story that the gas pump malfunctioned and he was soaked in gasoline because of that, leaving his clothes on the floor while he rushed to take a shower after coming home, thus explaining the gasoline smell. Walter Junior, however, thinks that the story is a cover-up for Walter to hide the fact that he fainted again due to the cancer. Keep in mind, if Walter Junior didn't have that preoccupation on his mind, he would've probably bought the story seeing as there wouldn't have been any other plausible explanation for him. Walter, after a bit, decides to play along, confirming that he felt dizzy and that's how he ended up soaked in gasoline, which still does its job of hiding what really happened, as it's the explanation that Walter Junior has already convinced himself of. Seeing as Jesse could still show up at any moment, Walter decides to use the situation to his advantage in order to get his family to leave the house for a while, so that he can protect them from Jesse and prevent them (especially Walter Junior) from finding out about him and his rampage. The excuse is that it would be better for their health if they moved somewhere else until the carpet is changed, which may give Walter enough time to solve the situation with Jesse. Walter Junior proposes that they go stay at Hank and Marie's, so Walter, instead of trying to argue against it and get the discussion into

dangerous territory, proposes an alternative which he knows will get Walter Junior more excited, which is staying at a hotel. ***[Improvisation, Adaptability, Strategy Logistics + Logical Prediction + Short-Term Strategy, Strategy Efficiency + Short-Term Strategy, Strategy Building, Strategy Efficiency, Strategy Resilience, Strategy Logistics + Misdirection, Fabrication, Concealment + Acting Skills, Misdirection + Adaptability, Strategy Control + Emotional Understanding, Psychological Insight + Strategy Building, Strategy Alignment, Strategy Logistics, Strategy Efficiency + Persuasion, Logical Manipulation + Strategy Orchestration + Strategy Logistics, Strategy Fortitude, Strategy Foresight + Psychological Insight + Strategy Effectiveness]***

S5E13 —

Walter gets Uncle Jack to kill Jesse by agreeing to give Todd one another lesson so that he can improve his cooking skills, but only once the job is finished, so as to ensure that Jesse is killed the way Walter wants, painlessly. ***[Strategy Alignment, Strategy Efficiency + Strategy Fortitude]***

Now, Walter has the means to kill Jesse, but he doesn't know where he is. However, he comes up with a strategy to flush him out. He goes to Andrea and tells her that he's been worried as Jesse has started using drugs again and he wasn't able to reach him lately, leading him to assume the worst. He knows that this will cause Andrea to become worried and want to help. Walter tells her that he and Jesse have had a falling out and that could be the reason Jesse hasn't called him back, rather than the alternative, which would have far more negative implications. Both to alleviate her worry and to help one of Jesse's friends, Andrea agrees to send Jesse a voicemail telling her that Walter is at her house and wants to talk. Due to Jesse's current perception of Walter, which Walter fully realized when Jesse didn't show up to meet and talk, as well as the fact that Walter has hurt Brock in the past, if Jesse hears this, he will assume that Andrea and Brock are in danger and go to her house to check on them, where Uncle Jack's men will be waiting for him. Walter reminds them that they are to kill Jesse swiftly and remove him before Andrea or Brock can see him. This is both to avoid hurting them unnecessarily and to avoid making them suspicious, possibly implicating Walter in Jesse's death. Another thing is that Walter shows up at a time when Andrea is taking Brock to school, meaning that neither of them will be home for Jesse's arrival. The only reason this doesn't

work is that Jesse doesn't get to hear the voicemail, as Hank, who has found Jesse and taken him to his house in the meantime, hears it first and conceals it from Jesse. Obviously, Walter wouldn't know that Hank is a factor here, as I'll get into later.
[Short-Term Strategy, Tactics + Acting Skills, Misdirection, Fabrication, Emotional Manipulation, Psychological Manipulation, Direct Manipulation + Emotional Understanding, Psychological Insight + Acting Skills, Fabrication + Emotional Facilitation + Tactical Potency, Strategy Effectiveness, Strategy Efficiency, Strategy Building, Strategy Orchestration + Emotional Understanding, Psychological Insight + Inductive Reasoning + Logical Prediction, Trap Setting + Indirect Manipulation, Emotional Manipulation + Strategy Logistics, Strategy Shielding + Strategy Logistics, Planning Accuracy]

It's time to tackle what is possibly Walter's biggest anti-feat.
Hank has hatched a scheme to catch Walter, that being to convince him that Jesse is about to burn his money and then follow Walter to said money so as to catch him red-handed and get evidence of his theories. Hank's plan is very well put together and involves extremely impressive information gathering, but I won't discuss that in too much detail here. What I want to focus on are the factors that allowed this plan to be formulated and to work.

- ➔ Hank's biggest asset was, by far, Jesse. Jesse was the one to get the idea to use Walter's money against him, who was able to point Hank to Huell as someone who would know something about where Walter took his money.
- ➔ Both Hank and especially Jesse have personal experience with Walter, and this allowed them to anticipate that Walter would be too stressed upon hearing that Jesse is about to burn his money to read the situation properly. Hank even outright says that Walter wouldn't be able to discern anything out of place in the misdirection because of how anxious he would be about the money.
- ➔ The money in question is the result of Walter's entire Heisenberg endeavor. It's both what he's supposed to leave to his family after he's dead and a token of his power, pride, and achievements as Heisenberg. In short, everything that drives him as a person has massive stakes in the fate of this money.
- ➔ And all of that is only a portion of the emotions that Walter feels as the trap is being sprung. When Jesse calls Walter to tell him that he's about to burn the money, providing him with a picture of a barrel, Walter feels incredible anger on top of the desperation. This is because of how much he feels he has done for Jesse, prompting a feeling of betrayal, especially after he's been

holding off from killing Jesse until the very last moment, despite Saul and Skyler's advice.

- ➔ So, while this is a pretty big failure in emotional management, it's somewhat excusable given the context, and doesn't remove the fact that Walter's feats in this category can be fairly remarkable in other situations. All this means is that when facing against such an extreme prospect as losing everything he has worked and bled for the last years, he can break.
- ➔ Obviously, as I hope this doc has already proven, Walter's falling into this trap doesn't at all reflect his judgmental capabilities under normal circumstances.
- ➔ Now, moving back to Hank and Jesse, as I said, Jesse was instrumental in formulating Hank's plan, due to his intel on Walter's money and behavior, and in executing it, as he was both someone who could realistically gather the information needed and who would have the motivation to burn Walter's money. So when did they start working together exactly?
- ➔ As far as Walter knew, Jesse had attempted to burn down his house but changed his mind before disappearing. Now, Walter has connections that were able to confirm that Jesse hadn't been taken in by either the police or the DEA, so it's very unlikely that Jesse has decided to work with them, not to mention that it would've been fairly uncharacteristic. So what if Jesse went to Hank, knowing that he was actively looking to catch Walter? That would've been basically impossible. Jesse felt intense hatred towards Hank due to their past, and Hank was only able to convince him to work with him after meeting Jesse face-to-face during a very emotional moment for him. This was only possible because Hank happened to be following Jesse when he drove to Walter's house. He obviously wasn't following him before the ricin realization, as Jesse was alone when he was about to be picked up by the disappearer, and could only have spotted him and started tailing him in the time it took for him to hastily drive from Saul's to Walter's, which is a very brief time window. If Hank hadn't been there, Jesse would've been picked up by Walter after burning down his house and dealt with, which would've left Hank with nothing. This, coupled with the circumstances that caused Jesse to turn on Walter in the first place, means that an extreme amount of bad luck went into this.

Walter arrives on the spot and sees no one. He quickly realizes that the call was a trap, and even guesses the logistics, as Jesse had told him not to hang up. Walter

had previously assumed that this was only a way for Jesse to ensure that he didn't get back-up, but given the circumstances, Walter realizes that it was to triangulate his position and follow him. Seeing an SUV arrive, Walter correctly guesses that Jesse is coming with more people. For the sake of detail, let's break this down piece by piece:

- ➔ If Jesse was truthful during the call, he would've already been there. Pretty straightforward.
- ➔ Why would Jesse do this? There's the fact that Walter is now alone and vulnerable, and that's something that Jesse achieved through the call. Walter realizes that his desperation for the money is something that Jesse could've exploited about him. Now, I already went over why Jesse working with the DEA would be an unlikely assumption, so the very next guess is that Jesse lured him to kill him.
- ➔ Walter connects the fact that Jesse insisted that Walter didn't hang up when asking himself what method he could've used to find him without risking Walter spotting his car. Walter knows that phone calls can be traced and so correctly guesses the method used.

Now, Walter is alone and ill, meaning that fighting isn't much of a choice. He could always take the car and flee, but that would leave the money at risk, and moreover, Jesse being there provides an opportunity to kill him, so Walter calls Jack and gives him the coordinates, telling him to come as quickly as possible. He has the thought process and comes up with this solution in a short time. ***[Deductive Reasoning, Abductive Reasoning, Inductive Reasoning, Metacognition, Thinking: Critical, Analytical, Linear/Vertical, Associative, Holistic, Fast + Emotional Realization, Self-Awareness + Crystallized Intelligence + Adaptability, Counteraction, Improvisation, Formulation Speed, Strategy Logistics, Strategy Building, Strategy Control, Strategy Fortitude + Processing Speed Index]***

Walter soon realizes that the people Jesse brought with him are Hank and Gomez, so he calls Jack off, not wanting Hank to die, and in doing so, he accepts his fate. ***[Emotional Management, Composure]***

S5E14 —

Jack decides to come anyway. He and his crew kill Gomez and injure Hank. As Jack is about to kill Hank, Walter begs him not to do it, and in his desperation, he offers

to give him the 80 million dollars buried in the area. However, Jack deduces that the precise coordinates are the exact location of the buried money, so he kills Hank anyway and takes the money, leaving Walter only one barrel. This is once again confirmation that only Hank could've brought Walter's fall, as he only caught on by finding the book, and moreover, if he had been anyone else, Walter would've dealt with him very differently.

Walter notices Jesse's hiding spot under a car, after all of Jack's crew were unable to find him for hours. ***[Observation]***

Jack and his crew are about to put Jesse in their car, as they want to question him about what he told Hank about the operation. Walter, looking for some retribution, decides to tell Jesse the thing that would mentally devastate him the most, and reveals to him that he watched Jane die, and that he could've saved her. This would make Jesse realize how deep Walter's manipulation truly went and how much of his subsequent suffering could've been avoided if he had known the truth. Regarding the death itself, Walter's words reopen the old wound, causing Jesse to think about it again, as well as its avoidability, and of course, a massive sense of betrayal. It's hard to put to words the impact that this revelation had on Jesse to anyone who hasn't watched the show, but there are a myriad of different ways it impacted him. Just to make an example, Jesse killed Gale out of loyalty for Walter, something that caused him a great deal of trauma and depression, and now he knows that the man he put himself through that for is partially responsible for the death of his girlfriend. To be fair, it was a responsibility via inaction, but I doubt Jesse would make that distinction given the circumstances. ***[Emotional Understanding, Emotional Facilitation, Psychological Insight, Psychological Warfare + Thinking: Abstract + Crystallized Intelligence]***

Walter's car stops working in the middle of the desert. He quickly identifies the reason: a bullet hole that caused the fuel to drip out, and he adapts by buying a truck from a man's house after some roaming using some of the money he has. ***[Observation + Adaptability, Improvisation, Strategy Efficiency]***

Walter starts packing his things. He intends to collect his family and use the disappearer, but Skyler deduces from his presence that Hank is dead and thinks Walter killed him, so she pulls a knife on him, and they start fighting. Walter Junior calls the police, and Walter is forced to flee. Now, thinking that his family would go

along with him after what happened was obviously a miscalculation. At this point, they knew from Marie that Walter had been arrested by Hank, meaning that they were already in a state of alarm. But given Walter's character, there is no way that he wouldn't at least have tried to get his family to go with him, as they're the only thing he has left. When he leaves, he even takes Holly with him, thinking that if anything, he can keep her. ***[Adaptability, Strategy Control + Strategy Control]***

When Walter hears Holly call for "mama", he decides that he will return her. He also decides that while he was unable to financially help his family, he should at least avoid putting them in legal trouble. He calls Skyler, anticipating that the police will be there to listen, and goes on a rant with the goal of leading the police to believe that:

- ➔ Walter had threatened Skyler to remain silent.
- ➔ Skyler had nothing to do with the creation of Walter's meth empire.
- ➔ Taking Holly was a way to get payback on Skyler for telling Walter Junior the truth.
- ➔ Walter killed Hank. This is probably to provide some closure and to make himself seem even more evil and unpredictable, to help the narrative that he forced Skyler to keep his secrets and launder his money.

All in all, he successfully prevents Skyler from being arrested due to his actions, showcasing as much damage control as he could realistically achieve in that situation. During all of this, Walter is breaking down in tears, but he keeps all that emotion away from his voice, which sounds threatening and ruthless, even as Walter can barely keep himself from sobbing when he mentions Hank's death. After the call, Walter leaves Holly in a fire truck and turns on the lights to draw attention, so that the firefighters can find Holly and bring her back home. Walter pays the disappearer and leaves Albuquerque. ***[Anticipation, Logical Prediction + Misdirection, Fabrication, Concealment, Sophistry, Acting Skills, Mass Deception, Mass Manipulation, Direct Manipulation + Adaptability, Strategy Control, Strategy Shielding, Strategy Effectiveness + Emotional Management, Emotional Engagement, Composure, Cognitive Discipline]***

Season 5 (Mr. Lambert) Feats



S5E15 —

Walter gets a new identity as “Mr. Lambert” and hides out in a cabin in New Hampshire. At this point, there’s a nationwide manhunt against him, and as the disappearer could tell him, his face is on every newspaper. This means that he’s effectively stuck in that small cabin, powerless, alone except for the few times the disappearer comes to bring him food and other goods, haunted by his mistakes and the state of his life, and of course, ill with terminal cancer. I say this to paint a picture of what his mental state would be, which will be relevant in a bit.

After a few months in this state, he decides to attempt to get at least some of his money to his family, so that it wasn’t all for nothing. The issue is that the police are very likely taking a close look at anything that reaches the family, meaning that Walter can’t directly give them anything. Walter anticipates the problem, and to get around it, he decides that he’s going to fit all the money he can into a box that he found in the cabin and mail it to Walter Junior’s best friend. Walter predicts that the friend will give the box to Walter Junior, and I presume that the strategy involved Walter Junior talking to the friend about the situation first. I won’t list this as a feat

because, simply enough, the strategy never plays out, so there's no proof to say Walter's judgment was correct, and given how broken and desperate he was at this point, I wouldn't bet on it, though it might be. To get in contact with Walter Junior, Walter has to first go to the nearby town, as the cabin doesn't have any phones or internet. At this point, Walter looks remarkably different from the image people would know, having a full head of hair and beard, and different glasses. Walter would still need to guess based on his previous and current appearance that people wouldn't recognize him, as while the search had likely gone cold by now, many would still be familiar with Walter's appearance from the manhunt. Walter finds a bar with a public phone and pays a woman to call Walter Junior at his school and pretend to be Marie, so as to get Junior on the phone. There, Walter explains his plan to Junior, but the latter ends up having an angry outburst because of how much Walter had ruined the lives of him and his family. Keep in mind that this was a strategy born out of desperation from the mind of a broken man, Walter is capable of much better when motivated, as I'll go over later. ***[Anticipation, Logical Prediction + Strategy Efficiency, Strategy Logistics, Strategy Building, Strategy Fortitude, Strategy Control, Planning Accuracy, Planning Coverage + Thinking: Analytical, Divergent, Creative, Lateral/Horizontal + Intuition, Thinking: Analytical, Critical + Intuitive Prediction + Strategy Orchestration, Strategy Efficiency, Tactics, Tactical Potency + Misdirection]***

At this point, Walter has just seen his last chance at reaching his goal fail. More than that, his own son hates him and actively wants him dead. Basically, Walter has nothing left in life except for the weight of his failures. He calls the police and says he's Walter White, before leaving the phone call open so that they can trace him and come to arrest him. While he waits, he orders a drink. The bartender starts switching channels on the TV, and an interview with Elliot and Gretchen happens to be on one of them. Walter asks the bartender to keep the interview on. Elliot and Gretchen are being asked about Walter's involvement in the creation of their company, and they say that he did virtually nothing, only contributing to the company name. This hurts Walter's pride and angers him, seeing his legacy run down by the people he despises. This simple feeling of petty anger is enough to break the depressed Walter out of his state and to fuel everything he does in the next episode, which is quite a lot. ***[Emotional Engagement, Emotional Management, Mental Fortitude, Perseverance, Determination]***

S5E16 —

Note: For an alternative/dedicated doc on Walter's feats from this episode, check out this one by Saul Badman. Mine and his analyses were made separately, and each includes details absent in the other, so I would suggest reading both.

Before we start, an important distinction to make is between this version of Walter and before. During this specific episode, Walter has a singular drive. He's completely focused on achieving his objectives and lacks the emotional vulnerabilities (and distractions, if you will) that he had before, such as his ego, his money, or Jesse. This is the reason I made it clear that most of Walter's anti-feats are due to emotional volatility or the presence of specific buttons to push is because in a situation (like in this episode) where he doesn't have those weaknesses he's not going to commit those kind of mistakes. This is not to say Felina Walter's impulse control and such are upscaled, but it's certainly something to keep in mind. As a larger point, most of Walter's anti-feats are anti-feats only in those categories of emotional control, rather than strategy or foresight. It's right to note them, sure, but they shouldn't be used to discredit the whole character, especially considering that they happen due to specific circumstances, and that again, only concern certain categories. All of this is to say that while I think the anti-feats do affect Walter's overall scaling, they don't nearly as dramatically as most people think.

Walter hides inside an unlocked car, which happens to have the keys inside. This is an obvious moment of luck, but it's not like he would've been helpless if the keys weren't there. He would've just had to find another way, and it would've simply taken more time. ***[Tactics]***

So, what's Walter's goal right now? He has two things that he wants to achieve: providing money and stability to his family, and getting revenge on Jack and his crew for killing Hank and stealing his money. ***[Strategy Vision]***

For the first goal, he intends to use Elliot and Gretchen.

To gather information on their whereabouts, Walter poses as a journalist on the phone. He connects his story to the interview they had the day prior. He asks about the time when they are set to arrive home and asks to confirm their address to him, in case the address he had was obsolete. This proves useful as Elliot and Gretchen

have in fact moved and Walter is able to discover their new address to enact his plan. ***[Acting Skills, Misdirection, Fabrication, Verbal Deception + Tactics, Tactical Potency, Strategy Building, Strategy Logistics, Strategy Shielding, Strategy Fortitude + Foresight, Information Gathering]***

Walter intends to intimidate Elliot and Gretchen into giving money to his family. The idea of them doing this unprompted is reasonable, and no one will question it. They are an extremely rich couple who's had personal ties with the White family, and they are known for their charitable endeavors. In fact, the interview that Walter saw was specifically about a donation they made. From their point of view, they wouldn't really lose anything from this as they would only be giving Walter's money and not their own. Now, Walter obviously can't just trust them on this, as the thing they're most likely to do is call the police as soon as Walter leaves. Fortunately, Walter now has the reputation of a ruthless and globally dangerous criminal kingpin. Walter gets in contact with Skinny Pete and Badger, who would be willing to get on board with his ideas, given that they formerly worked for him, and has them use laser pointers to trick Elliot and Gretchen into believing that he has hired two hitmen to kill them if they don't go ahead with his plan. ***[Strategy Logistics, Strategy Alignment + Strategy Fortitude + Anticipation + Aura + Strategy Efficiency, Strategy Fortitude, Strategy Foresight, Strategy Shielding + Misdirection, Fabrication, Intimidation, Logical Manipulation, Direct Manipulation]***

When he gets into their house, Elliot and Gretchen are obviously terrified, but Elliot manages to muster enough courage to point a kitchen knife at Walter. Walter is completely unbothered as he can tell that Elliot wouldn't be capable of actually attacking him. By making Elliot drop the knife, Walter gains complete control over them just by intimidation alone. He has them carry the money out of his car so that he can explain to give it to Walter Junior for his 18th birthday to spend as he desires, but to mention the hope for him to use it for college. Now, Walter wants to provide for his whole family, but he doesn't mention anything about Skyler or Holly. This is because he likely predicts that Walter Junior will want to share the money with the rest of the family. This is likely because Walter Junior is, in general, a kind person, and the current familial situation sees Skyler working hard to provide the little she can, something Walter learned from the disappearer, meaning that Walter Junior is sure to take pity on her, especially since he sees her as a victim of Walter. When Walter gives the signal for Skinny Pete and Badger to point the lasers, he

explains that he has hired the “two best hitmen west of the Mississippi" and starts slowly painting a picture with his words of how they’ll die to terrify them. He says that if they don’t do as he told them, the hitmen will kill them after some time, specifying that it could be anywhere from a week after to a year, possibly even more, so that they would never feel safe and to remove the possibility of them staying, for example, under protection by the police, as that would need to continue for possibly many months. He also says that this will continue regardless of what happens to him the next day, as he’s currently planning to die and doesn’t want the news of his death to make them think they’re safe. And again, they wouldn’t really lose anything from accepting to do as Walter said, so the only logical thing for them to do is to concede to Walter’s will. This way, two years after its conception, and after its apparent complete failure, Walter is able to reach the main goal of the Meth-Cooking Strategy. ***[Composure + Emotional Perception + Intimidation + Strategy Execution, Strategy Logistics + Logical Prediction + Thinking: Abstract, Linear/Vertical, Analytical + Emotional Understanding, Psychological Insight + Intimidation, Emotional Manipulation + Emotional Facilitation + Strategy Resilience, Strategy Logistics, Strategy Foresight, Strategy Shielding + Logical Manipulation + Strategy Length, Strategy Control, Strategy Adaptability, Strategy Effectiveness]***

Before going ahead with the plan to kill Jack and his crew, Walter pays Skyler a visit. This is both to give her and Holly a proper goodbye, but mostly to hand Skyler the coordinates to where Hank and Gomez are buried, which is where the money was buried before Jack took it. Walter wants Skyler to trade the information for a deal with the prosecutor. With this and the strategy with Elliot and Gretchen, Walter is able to provide for his family and control the damage his actions had on them. During the conversation, Walter admits to Skyler that everything he did was for himself, showing a newfound self-awareness compared to the time where he lied to himself to say that it was all for the family. ***[Strategy Alignment, Strategy Efficiency, Strategy Control + Emotional Realization, Self-Awareness]***

➢ M60 Plan

That was only one of Walter’s goals. The other one is, as mentioned, to get revenge on Jack and his crew, which means slaughtering them all. To do this, Walter uses his gun dealer contact to buy an M60 machine gun. This

happens at a gas station. The two meet in the bathroom, alone, so as to hide that they ever met, where the gun dealer leaves him keys to a car with the M60 inside. This is obviously because one can't just hand an M60 to someone else publicly. But on top of that, the new car helps Walter in the sense that this way, if the police are trailing the stolen car from around the place where Walter called in New Hampshire, they won't be able to find him. We later find out that they are. This being deliberate adds a reason for them to have done the transaction this way rather than in some random isolated place, especially given that Walter would've had to pay for the car as well. ***[Strategy Building, Planning Preparation + Concealment + Strategy Alignment, Strategy Foresight, Tactics, Tactical Synergy + Concealment + Foresight, Anticipation]***

Note: This exchange doesn't happen in S5E16 but in S5E1 as a flashforward.

Walter discovers from Skinny Pete and Badger that the blue meth that is still being sold is top quality, after prodding them for information about it. This causes Walter to realize that Jesse is the one cooking it, as he's the only one who was ever able to reach that kind of quality aside from himself. On top of that, he deduces that Lydia would still be handling the product, as she wouldn't turn her back on the profit that Heisenberg-level meth represents, which he knows, as she had tried to persuade him to get back into the business when he left. The same can be said for Jack, who also wanted a better quality of meth and who wouldn't have left Jesse alive if he didn't gain something from it. ***[Information Gathering + Inductive Reasoning, Thinking: Analytical, Connective, Linear/Horizontal + Abductive Reasoning + Psychological Insight, Emotional Understanding + Abductive Reasoning, Deductive Reasoning + Psychological Insight, Emotional Understanding + Crystallized Intelligence]***

Knowing this, Walter decides to eliminate her first by poisoning her with ricin. A few factors go into this:

- ➔ Walter has access to ricin. As mentioned earlier in the doc, he had decided to keep the ricin from the cigarette for possible future use, which evidently paid off. Given how well hidden it was, it's very likely still there, and Walter can retrieve it.

- ➔ The ricin acts in a way that means Jack and his crew won't find out before they're dead as well.
- ➔ Walter knows where and when to find Lydia. This is because he understands that her nature leads her to follow personal schedules and routines almost obsessively. When he was in business with her, she used to meet him every day in the same bar, at the same hour, on the same table. On top of that, Lydia always puts stevia in her tea. This allows Walter to anticipate her there when she comes to meet with Todd, remove all packages of stevia on the table except for one, and put the ricin inside of it.
- ➔ Killing Lydia is only part of Walter's goal here. Walter wants to set up a meeting with Jack. As an excuse for this, he uses the fact that according to his calculations, Jack and his crew are about to run out of methylamine, and tells Lydia that he has invented a new recipe for meth that doesn't require methylamine, and intends to sell it to Jack for around a million dollars, so that he can continue evading the police. There are two layers to this trick.
  - ◆ The first is the surface-level one. Walter is offering something that could be useful, meaning that Lydia and Todd may accept just for that.
  - ◆ However, they are very unlikely to, given Walter's state and the fact that Lydia's involvement in gathering methylamine is probably a significant source of income for her. The reason the strategy works anyway is the second layer. Lydia doesn't like having loose ends. Walter understands this because one of his first interactions with her was about her desire to kill Mike's nine men in prison. As it stands, Walter is a fugitive, and Lydia has no way of finding him. The meeting at Jack's offers an opportunity for her (or rather, Jack himself, who'd be the one taking care of it) to know where Walter is and to eliminate him.
- ➔ During this interaction, Walter makes sure to come off as desperate and vulnerable, even playing into the coughs caused by his cancer, so that Lydia and Todd consider him helpless.
- ➔ So Walter predicts Lydia's thoughts and actions and manipulates her into formulating a strategy that in reality sets up the environment for Walter's own plan.

[Strategy Efficiency, Strategy Logistics + Strategy Logistics, Strategy Shielding, Planning Coverage + Logical Prediction, Trap Setting + Psychological Insight + Strategy Execution + Strategy Alignment, Strategy Building, Strategy Orchestration, Planning Preparation + Misdirection, Fabrication, Sophistry + Emotional Understanding, Psychological Insight + Strategy Complexity, Strategy Resilience, Strategy Fortitude, Planning Coverage, Planning Invincibility + Logical Manipulation, Indirect Manipulation + Acting Skills, Non-Verbal Deception + Tactics, Tactical Synergy + Deductive Reasoning, Inductive Reasoning, Thinking: Critical, Analytical, Linear, Convergent + Crystallized Intelligence]

Now, onto the plan to kill Jack and his crew. Walter obviously can't just walk in with an M60 and mow down everyone. Jack's lair has fences around it, and Jack's armed crew would see it coming a mile away if Walter attempted something like this. Given that an M60 is a large gun, Walter can't hide it on himself either. But he can hide it in his car, which is what he intends to do. Walter designs and constructs a contraption that can:

- ➔ Open the trunk of the car.
- ➔ Raise the rifle until it can shoot at a height where it would hit the vitals.
- ➔ Pull the trigger.
- ➔ Rotate the rifle repeatedly to kill the whole room.
- ➔ Be activated remotely by unlocking the trunk with the car keys.
- ➔ All of this in a few hours, using what he could find in regular shops, and despite having no experience with robotics that we know of.

[Thinking: Critical, Analytical, Linear/Vertical, Concrete + Thinking: Creative, Convergent, Divergent, Lateral/Horizontal + Strategy Efficiency, Strategy Logistics, Strategy Building, Planning Accuracy, Planning Coverage, Planning Preparation, Tactics + Knowledge, Knowledge Application, Crystallized Intelligence, Fluid Intelligence, Learning Ability, Visual-Spatial Intelligence]

Walter is let in through the fence outside Jack's lair. He parks in front of the clubhouse. Now, he has to park in a way that makes sure the range of the M60's rotation covers the whole room, meaning that he has to visualize the range of the rotation compared to the size of the room, and park accordingly at the right distance, all while hiding that he's doing this. Of course, parking

the car further away would increase the chances of the range covering the whole room, but he also has to park the car close enough that it doesn't seem odd. Adding to the impressiveness of the precision of this is the fact that when the M60 is activated, we can see that its range covers exactly the width of the room. ***[Strategy Execution + Visual-Spatial Intelligence, Processing Speed Index]***

Once Walter has parked, all he has to do is open the trunk to kill everyone inside. This means that if, for whatever reason, the people searching him decide to check the trunk, Jack and everyone else inside would die, leaving only the people searching him alive. Walter would be killed, of course, but as already mentioned, he's planning to die. The possibility of this happening is low anyway, but if it did happen, it wouldn't really change the outcome. ***[Strategy Resilience, Planning Invincibility]***

There is, however, a complication. After being searched, Walter's car keys are taken and tossed on a table, meaning that Walter is unable to activate the contraption before Jack has him taken away to be killed. Walter keeps himself lucid and almost instantly comes up with a solution by telling Jack that he owes him and accusing him of having partnered up with Jesse instead of killing him as requested. The reason this is so crafty is that Walter understands Jack's sense of pride and superiority over those he considers "rats", which means he is deeply offended and angered by Walter's words and decides to prove him wrong by showing him Jesse and the slavish state he's in. This allows Walter to sneakily grab the car keys, saving the plan from the complication. ***[Emotional Management, Cognitive Discipline + Processing Speed Index + Thinking: Abstract, Critical, Analytical, Connective, Divergent, Convergent, Linear/Vertical, Lateral/Horizontal, Creative, Fast + Emotional Manipulation, Direct Manipulation, Individual Manipulation + Psychological Insight, Emotional Understanding, Emotional Facilitation + Adaptability, Improvisation, Formulation Speed, Strategy Control, Tactics, Tactical Potency + Crystallized Intelligence, Fluid Intelligence]***

Walter decides to spare Jesse from the M60, so he pretends to have a fit of rage and tackles him to the ground, putting him below the height where the

M60 would shoot and shielding him with his own body. ***[Acting Skills, Misdirection + Tactics]***

Walter activates the contraption, and his plan is completely successful. ***[Strategy Effectiveness, Planning Aim]***

During this, a bullet ricochets and hits Walter in the side. After this, he's able to walk and talk almost unbothered, which shows a complete acceptance of death and very remarkable pain tolerance. He asks Jesse to shoot him, but he doesn't. Walter hears Todd's phone ringing, and answers to Lydia. He tells her that he killed everyone, and about the ricin, so that she spends her last moments terrified. Then he goes to Jack's meth lab to reminisce among the equipment that gave him so much joy. Just before the police can arrive, Walter White dies from his wounds, having accomplished everything he set out to do. ***[Composure, Emotional Management + Psychological Warfare, Emotional Facilitation]***

Summary

Note: Again, if possible, I recommend reading the whole doc through to get better context and a full picture of each feat. I'll also add that any feat, if I put it in the doc, is notable in some way, even if not enough to be mentioned in the summary.

S1E1

- ➔ Coping with cancer and coming up with the Meth-Cooking strategy.
- ➔ Getting Jesse to work for him.
- ➔ Cooking the purest meth.
- ➔ Adapting to Krazy-8's arrival and outsmarting him with the tools available.

S1E2

- ➔ Improvising a lie to Skyler which plays on her psyche and successfully prevents her from investigating further on his activities.

S1E3

- ➔ Anticipating Krazy-8's attempt to betray and murder him by noticing a missing shard from a broken plate.
- ➔ Using the news of his cancer to get Skyler's mind off her distress when she finds out he has been lying about his second job.

S1E6

- ➔ Fulminated Mercury Plan.

Note: Highlighted plans are, being highlights, sections anyone reading this doc should check out, so I won't get in any more detail than just mentioning them.

S1E7

- ➔ Coming up with an alternative way to cook meth when not meeting Tuco's standards in order to exceed them, and showing confidence when offering twice the quota he couldn't meet, despite Tuco's violent reputation.
- ➔ Quickly coming up with a way to commit a robbery by using material from old household items.

S2E1

- ➔ Formulating a plan to kill Tuco with ricin poison he can process with beans based on Tuco's behavior.

S2E3

- ➔ Fugue State Plan.

S2E4

- ➔ Using a series of manipulative tactics to try to get Skyler to drop her own, which she has been using ever since finding out about Walter's second cellphone.

S2E6

- ➔ Constructing an elaborate lie after a close call with Skyler almost finding out about Walter's lies about his source of money.

S2E7

- ➔ Perceiving the fear of his dealers when talking to him, realizing that they heard about an incident Jesse was involved in and that they believe Jesse to

be a killer because of it, then exploiting this notion by acting like it's true to spread it and increase their reputation and intimidation factor.
- ➔ Convincing Jesse to also play into the lie, getting him out of his hesitant state ever since the incident.

S2E8

- ➔ Saving a scheme crafted by himself and Saul by distracting Hank at the right moment, exploiting Hank's view on him.

S2E9

- ➔ Tricking Jesse into an extensive mass meth-cooking session. (Logical Manipulation, Misdirection)
- ➔ Engineering two batteries out of junk when trapped in the middle of the desert on a malfunctioning RV.

S2E10

- ➔ Cold reading a man in a store and guessing he wants to manufacture meth, then intimidating him and his friend, who is a strong and burly man, out of doing that.

S2E11

- ➔ Guessing Gus's nature as a drug kingpin and reading through his facade, then persuading Gus to let him work for him despite Gus's reluctance.
- ➔ Giving up on witnessing the birth of his daughter to get the opportunity to work with Gus and so ensuring the continuation of the Meth-Cooking Strategy.

S2E12

- ➔ Deciding to let Jane die, despite his instincts, for a series of reasons, mainly his prediction of how her influence on Jesse will develop.

S3E3

- ➔ Break-In Plan.

S3E4

- ➔ Realizing Saul bugged his house.

S3E5

- ➔ Realizing Gus's manipulation strategies.

S3E6

- ➔ After Hank has tracked the RV, improvising a way to make him leave before he can enter and find him inside.

S3E7

- ➔ Manipulating Gus and Gale to get Jesse back as a partner and prevent him from possibly jeopardizing the operation.

S3E8

- ➔ Realizing Gus's complex strategy to manipulate the Cartel and the government and eliminating an enemy while having limited information, down to even the details.

S3E12

- ➔ Negotiating his way back into family life by playing on Skyler's own narrative.
- ➔ Anticipating Jesse's emotional reaction to the death of a child and the exact location where to find him.

S3E13

- ➔ Negotiating for his life to Gus after having killed two of his dealers, while showing no fear at all.
- ➔ Anticipating Gus's strategy to replace him with Gale and taking measures to counter it.
- ➔ Predicting being followed by Victor and acting accordingly not to raise suspicion.
- ➔ Knowing which psychological mechanism is preventing Gale from being sure about his skills yet.
- ➔ Quickly improvising a way out of being executed by Mike after Gus manipulates Gale to accelerate his plans, by deceiving and manipulating Mike himself.

S4E1

- ➔ Coming up with a series of manipulative tactics to get Gus to spare him and Jesse.

S4E2

- ➔ Manipulating Hank into letting him in on the Heisenberg case investigations as a long-term strategy to control his progress.
- ➔ Giving Hank a plausible excuse for there to be an inscription dedicated to "W.W." on Gale's diary.

S4E6

- ➔ Completely seeing through Gus's strategy to manipulate Jesse.

S4E7

- ➔ Manipulating Jesse into working with him to kill Gus despite Gus's own manipulation of Jesse.

S4E8

- ➔ Coming up with a plan to kill Gus with ricin in a way that doesn't lead back to him and Jesse.
- ➔ Convincing Gus not to take action against Hank's investigations for the moment.
- ➔ Aligning Hank's investigation with the ricin plan to get an opportunity.

S4E9

- ➔ Delaying Hank's investigation of Gus's distribution center by coming up with an excuse without notice.

S4E11

- ➔ Realizing Gus considers Jesse ready to replace him.
- ➔ Realizing Gus can't kill him yet due to Jesse's lingering loyalty.
- ➔ Coming up with a disappearance plan to protect all of his family.

S4E12

- ➔ After the disappearance plan is foiled by unlucky circumstances, managing to remain focused enough to adapt.
- ➔ Lily of the Valley Plan.

S4E13

- ➔ Casa Tranquila Plan.

S5E1

- ➔ Magnet Plan.

S5E2

- ➔ Planting a substitute ricin cigarette in Jesse's house to relieve his worries and manipulating him into staying in the drug business, while keeping the real ricin for possible future use.

S5E3

- ➔ Coming up with a new strategy to cook meth without being caught after the destruction of Gus's superlab.
- ➔ Manipulating Jesse into breaking up with his girlfriend to increase control over him.
- ➔ Deceiving Marie with a warped truth to shift blame on Skyler for her emotional breakdown.

S5E4

- ➔ Countering a series of strategies by Skyler to keep him away from their children one after the other, on the fly, forcing her to accept just waiting for him to die of cancer.

S5E5

- ➔ Manipulating Hank by playing on his psyche to get an opportunity to plant a bug in his office.
- ➔ Train Heist Plan.

S5E6

- ➔ After being restrained by Mike, coming up with a way to escape while only using the limited objects around him.

S5E7

- ➔ Coming up with a strategy to manipulate Declan into working as distribution for his operation.
- ➔ Using a series of manipulative tactics playing on Jesse's psyche to attempt convincing him to remain in the drug business.

S5E8

- ➔ Getting Jack to kill ten men in three different prisons within two minutes despite his skepticism.
- ➔ Rebuilding his relationship with his family, including Skyler.

S5E9

- ➔ Realizing Hank found Gale's book in the bathroom and connected it to him.

S5E10

- ➔ Hiding the money to prevent Hank from finding it and memorizing the thirteen-digit coordinates.

S5E11

- ➔ Manipulating Walter Junior into staying at home with him rather than going with Marie as she was planning.
- ➔ Playing on Hank's lack of material evidence, coming up with a fake confession strategy by fabricating a made-up story accusing Hank on a tape to intimidate Hank out of continuing his investigation on him.
- ➔ Manipulating Jesse into leaving town due to the threat he represents with Hank looking for evidence.
- ➔ Realizing Jesse would head to his house immediately for revenge after a discovery he made.

S5E12

- ➔ Coming up with an elaborate excuse for gasoline being all over his house's moquette and adapting it after Walter Junior doesn't buy it, then aligning the situation to take measures against Jesse possibly returning and manipulating Walter Junior out of choosing Hank's house as an alternative..

S5E13

- ➔ Coming up with a trap against Jesse by manipulating his ex-girlfriend Andrea.
- ➔ Adapting to Jesse's own trap by calling Jack.

S5E14

- ➔ Knowing what to say to destroy what's left of Jesse's will to live.

➔ Deceiving the DEA into thinking Skyler is completely innocent and only worked with him because he threatened her, making her a victim rather than an accomplice.

S5E15

➔ While in a state of having every hope crushed, every action failed, no will to live, having been told to die by his own son, and having given himself in, only waiting for the police to arrive, channelling a simple feeling of pettiness into enough determination to decide to return to Albuquerque to tie up every loose end.

S5E16

➔ Adapting the Meth-Cooking Strategy's ultimate failure into a success by threatening Elliot and Gretchen into giving Walter Junior his money.
➔ M60 Plan.

Common Misconceptions

Now that I'm finished with the feats, I'd like to tackle some notions commonly believed about Walter that paint him as less intelligent or more incompetent than he actually is.

1. **<u>Walter is just lucky.</u>**

   This is arguably the most common and most damaging belief about Walter's achievements.
   I have seen quite a lot of people claiming that Walter's success was always due to luck, rather than skill or intelligence.
   Now, there are instances of Walter having some good luck, but he's not inherently luckier than your average character. In fact, I'd argue that for any example of good luck on Walter's part, you could give two examples of bad luck.

Here are a few examples:

a) Tuco's sudden outrage at No Doze indirectly leading to his lair being raided and thus his kidnapping of Walter.
b) Walter's mention of having a second cellphone to Skyler while anesthetized for his surgery.
c) Jesse, by complete chance, getting in a relationship with the older sister of the kid that the dealers working with Gus use for their business, leading to the conflict with Gus.
d) Skyler giving the drug money to cover Ted's tax evasion.
e) Jesse making Gus suspicious during the execution of the hospital trap.
f) Hank deciding to use the master bathroom and finding Gale's book.
g) Jesse having his meth lifted off him by Huell, leading to his realization of Walter's lily of the valley scheme.
h) Hank happening to be following Jesse to Walter's house, leading to their alliance.

These are only some examples, but they paint the picture. While Walter might've had some good luck from time to time, more often he has been quite unlucky, forcing him to adapt to unforeseen situations.
Aside from that, a character being lucky at times doesn't invalidate all of their feats by default.

2. <u>Walter is inferior to Gus and only beat him through luck.</u>

This is a sister argument to the previous one, and there are a few things to talk about.

a. Walter's operation was not a long-term one like Gus's. His goal was to make enough money throughout the two years he had left to live. Gus had twenty years to build up a rock-solid operation paired with a public enterprise in Los Pollos Hermanos acting as a front, not to mention vital help from Madrigal.
b. This is a continuation of my previous point, but I think it's unfair to say Walter's victory over Gus is just luck. What's lucky about it is simply Hector's existence as an emotional weakness of Gus's. Walter very likely wouldn't have been able to kill Gus, but this is not because Gus was smarter. Gus had simply a lot more influence and material power than Walter, making the task of killing him almost impossible. On top

of that, the opportunity to kill Gus isn't served on a silver platter. Walter discovered this connection through Jesse's intel, which was a deliberate part of his strategy. Even then, someone as smart as Saul thought the information to be useless, while Walter intuited its importance and was able to infer a whole hidden aspect of Gus's personality from it. And still, this only provided a vague opportunity. Walter still had to persuade Hector, adapt his strategy, and misdirect Gus to achieve his goal. To make an example from another work *(spoilers for Death Note, highlight the next portion of text to see)*: A similar argument would be to say that Light's victory over L was completely luck-based because of the mere existence of the Shinigami Eye power. If that ability wasn't a thing, L's secret identity would've made it nearly impossible for Light to kill him, just as Gus's power and protection made it nearly impossible for Walter to kill him. Both L and Gus had inherent qualities that made them hard targets for Light and Walter, respectively, and only the existence of a way to bypass said qualities (Shinigami Eyes and Hector) made them possible to defeat. Sure, there's a degree of luck working in Light and Walter's favor here, providing them with opportunities, but it's minor compared to the initial bad odds they had, and even then, it took a lot of cunning and effort for each to capitalize on said opportunities. In all honesty, I'd even consider Light's luck to be greater than Walter's when comparing the two situations, but that's beyond the scope of this example.

c. Besides that specific situation, I find the notion of Gus being smarter than Walter to be generally untrue. Gus is superior to Walter in some regards, no doubt, but in terms of sheer intellect, Walter is a man who was able to see right through Gus's strategies basically every time. From Gus's one minute strategy (the Twins vs. Hank), to his use of Gale as a substitute, to his manipulation of Jesse.

3. **<u>Walter is only capable of manipulating junkies.</u>**

Yes, I've heard this argument. Let's get it out of the way.
Walter does indeed manipulate a junkie. Walter's manipulation of Jesse is very advanced and shows how capable and shrewd he is. Just because Jesse is a "junkie" doesn't mean he can be played with a few words. The methods

Walter uses are clearly very thought-out and deserve analysis and consideration, and even then, they don't always work. Is this because Walter is a poor manipulator? Far from it. Jesse, while not the brightest, has his moments of brilliance, some of which are even mentioned in this doc, though not in detail. Walter is not just using minor persuasion, either. More often than not, he's actively pushing Jesse to go against his deep-rooted beliefs and morals, and for a big chunk of the show, Jesse was also being counter-manipulated by someone as cunning as Gus. All this is to say, manipulating Jesse is not as meaningless a feat as some make it out to be. Besides that, the notion is also untrue. Walter, during the show, has successfully manipulated Skyler, Hank, Gus, Jack, Lydia, and more. So no, I'd say he can manipulate more than just junkies.

4. **Walter couldn't even keep his family from discovering his secret.**

Technically true, but as I've already discussed at length, a lot of bad luck went into this. I also think it would be a disservice to Skyler to say that deceiving her is easy. She has solid reasoning, and she understands manipulative tactics enough to use them herself at times. Yet Walter was able to hide his secrets from her until he was literally sedated. Hank finding out is much more of a mistake on Walter's part, but it's still unlucky, and Walter would've been able to control the damage if not for Jesse. Something to mention about Hank, though, is that he's a full-on detective with some very solid feats, like uncovering Gus's operation, and someone who I could even consider low-tier SCD material.

5. **Walter is sloppy and makes a lot of mistakes.**

Most of Walter's anti-feats are contextual and don't invalidate his feats. For anyone reading this before the bulk of the doc, I talk more about this at the initial bit of the S5E16 analysis, and there are explanations for most major anti-feats throughout the doc.

This is the end of the doc, thanks for reading!