What is an alter ego, and why might someone need one?

An alter ego is a secondary self or hidden identity that a person creates to achieve a certain goal or improve their performance in a particular area. It is not the same as Dissociative Identity Disorder, as it is within the person's control and does not affect their ability to connect with reality.

People may need an alter ego to boost their confidence, motivation, willpower, or to overcome social anxiety, shyness, or trauma. Creating an alter ego can help a person distance themselves from negative emotions, focus on long-term goals, and make wise decisions.

To create an alter ego, one should first decide on the area of their life they want to improve and choose a model that embodies the characteristics they desire. Then they should think about the model's achievements and qualities that might help them succeed and give their alter ego a name, personality, and voice. Using props, such as clothing or accessories, can help activate the alter ego when needed. Finally, the person should put their alter ego into practice.

The benefits of having an alter ego include improved performance, increased confidence, motivation, willpower, and decision-making. It can also help people deal with traumatic experiences and negative emotions by creating a distance from themselves.