

## Severance

Season 1, Episode 1: Good News about Hell

1) Make notes on Lacey's repertoire of elements as you watch the episode.

Element	Conventions
<b>Setting</b> ( <i>mise en scene/locations</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Corporate office</li><li>- Grey/black suits</li><li>- Sister's house</li><li>- Office cubicles</li></ul>
<b>Characters</b> ( <i>representations, stereotypes, behavior, body language, specific actors/stars</i> ) <b>Consider Propps character types.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Mark – protagonist (story centers around mark)</li><li>- Boss – villain/antagonist possibly</li><li>- Helen – background/side character</li></ul>
<b>Narrative events</b> ( <i>how is the narrative ordered and structured? Is it elliptical?</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- They gather for dinner but don't eat anything</li><li>- Mark gets fed then sleeps in child bed</li><li>- Mark sees guy in spooky forest who disappears</li><li>- Guy from work appears at dinner table</li><li>- Boss from work appears in personal life</li><li>- Not elliptical – in chronological time order</li></ul>
<b>Iconography</b> ( <i>well known or recognizable people/objects/buildings/mise en scene/props/costume, setting, symbolic codes</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Alcohol</li><li>- Envelope</li><li>- White walls</li><li>- Sandwich</li></ul>

<b>Style</b> (technical and audio codes e.g. camera use, editing, sound, lighting, color)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Little to no soundtrack</li> <li>- 19khz+ frequencies from tv screens to enhance ambience</li> <li>- Subtle fan noise around 480bpm</li> <li>- Minimalist modern classical piano music with frequent modulation and dissonant notes (blue notes)</li> <li>- Dialogue</li> <li>- J cuts</li> <li>- Unnatural light creating contrast between work and personal life</li> <li>- Camera panning</li> <li>- Camera tracking</li> </ul>

**2) Make notes on the following Macro elements as you watch.**

<b>Story Arcs</b> within the episode: <i>make note of which are resolved by the end of the episode, and which will continue into the season.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mark's outside/personal life</li> <li>- Mark's promotion</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Todorov's Narrative Theory:</b> <i>In what ways does his theory apply (or not apply) to this episode.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It goes from equilibrium to disequilibrium at the end</li> <li>- The story is currently unresolved at the end of episode 1</li> </ul>
<p><b>Binary Oppositions:</b> <i>list and explain the oppositions present in the episode. How is this adding to narrative conflict?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Corporate life vs personal life</li> <li>- Freedom vs authority</li> <li>- Rebellion vs resistance</li> <li>- Petey vs boss</li> </ul>
<p><b>Themes:</b> <i>What themes can you identify in the episode and how are these being portrayed so far?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Capitalism</li> <li>- Freedom</li> </ul>