**Severance**

Season 1, Episode 1: Good News about Hell

1. **Make notes on Lacey’s repertoire of elements as you watch the episode.**

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| **Element** | **Conventions** |
| **Setting** *(mise en scene/locations)* | Unknown empty location – office meeting room  Grey office building  Maze-like  Moody  Cold atmosphere  A large older style house – large but extremely empty  Wintertime – everything is cold, frozen and snowing – possible mimics cold environment of the office  Formal attire |
| **Characters** *(representations, stereotypes, behavior, body language, specific actors/stars)* ***Consider Propps character types.*** | Unknown voice – finds out later that it is Mark,  Scared woman – finds out later her name is Helly. She presents herself as someone who has gone through some tough times but still appears as confident and put together.  No main ‘hero’ however there is still a main character who the plot revolves around  Mark – first seen as the unknown voice but is later found out to be a generally important official in his work complex. His life outside of home seems to be suggested that he has some complicated challenges, such as the passing of his wife. He personality traits appear to be very routine and robotic, and a general lack of emotion apart from the one scene, showing Mark in his car grieving over his passed wife.  Petey – not much is known about him until he appears outside Marks window, and then the next day at the bar. He provides Mark with some important information to the plot, and hands him a letter.  Harmony – seems to be a cold, mean boss, who appears to be hiding something. Later on, Mark finds out the address that Petey handed him was hers. Leads to possible thoughts regarding if she is severance.  Due to only watching one episode, I don’t think it’s possible to properly label characters with Vladimir Propp’s character types, as there isn’t enough information surrounding each person yet. |
| **Narrative events** *(how is the narrative ordered and structured? Is it elliptical?)* | The episode begins with a flashback in time, jumping the audience straight into a clip portraying Helly, in a confused heap on a table. This scene starts the episode off with questions and tension. It then flashes forward, showing the same scene from another angle, which possibly explains some of the questions the audience may have had earlier. The idea of this elevator is also introduced as a separation from the real world and work world. The rest of the episode doesn’t contain much that is relevant to narrative events aside from one of the last scenes, where Mark and Petey meet in a bar and he suggests reversing severance is possible, where he then leads him to his bosses’ house, leaving the audience on a cliff hanger. |
| **Iconography** *(well known or recognizable people/objects/buildings/mise en scene/props/costume, setting, symbolic codes)* |  |
| **Style** (*technical and audio codes e.g. camera use, editing, sound, lighting, color)* | Editing – title screen, stays for longer time, whilst man begins crying  Bland colour grading  Tense piano music  Diegetic sound  Cheery elevator music  Everything seems very small in comparison to surroundings  Certain elements of green  All the workers speak in a formal manner and somewhat robot like.  Tracking cameras – especially in opening scene  Many over the shoulder shots |

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

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| **Story Arcs** within the episode: *make note of which are resolved by the end of the episode, and which will continue into the season.* | **Mark – starts off as an unknown voice speaking to Helly. He is then found out to be an important worker at Lumin. After leaving out the elevator, there is shown to be a change in his face, upon him leaving work and entering his personal life. He experiences a personality change from confident to timid and somewhat robotic.**  **Helly – goes from being in a state of somewhat insanity – to the realization that she chose to be severed – has a mental calmness come over her.** |
| **Todorov’s Narrative Theory:** *In what ways does his theory apply (or not apply) to this episode.* | **The episode appears in a nonlinear manner purely due to the opening scenes showing the flash back and forward in time.** |
| **Binary Oppositions:** *list and explain the oppositions present in the episode. How is this adding to narrative conflict?* | **Freedom vs control**  **Work vs home**  **Clarity vs control** |
| **Themes:** *What themes can you identify in the episode and how are these being portrayed so far?* | **Mental insanity** |