

## 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> )	Office Rooms – padded, interrogation  Old house – sad, depressing  Sisters house – Nice, Modern, contrasting to marks house  Office cubicles centralized in room to keep an eye on all employees
<b>Characters</b> ( <i>representations, stereotypes, behavior, body language, specific actors/stars</i> ) <b>Consider Props character types.</b>	Mark – Could be the hero, Patient, Sad life outside of work  Older Woman – The Villain (potentially), the way she talks and body language  Helen – Young adult behaviors, slightly snarky, moves very quick and fluidly
<b>Narrative events</b> ( <i>how is the narrative ordered and structured? Is it elliptical?</i> )	Non-Linear at the start afterwards it is linear  Flashback of man  Viewer is not sure of what is happening which draws them in if done properly
<b>Iconography</b> ( <i>well known or recognizable people/objects/buildings/mise en scene/props/costume, setting, symbolic codes</i> )	White office walls  Corporate cubicles  Mark
<b>Style</b> ( <i>technical and audio codes e.g. camera use, editing, sound, lighting, color</i> )	High angle camera shot shows insignificance of woman  Tracking shot following woman around room  Music shows how desolate and trapped everyone is  Music also builds tension  Unnatural lighting showing the fake place they are working

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

<p><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></p>	<p><b>Helens discovery of the company</b></p> <p><b>Marks outside life</b></p> <p><b>Marks promotion at work</b></p>
<p><b>Todorov's Narrative Theory:</b> <i>In what ways does his theory apply (or not apply) to this episode.</i></p>	<p><b>The first episode is mostly disequilibrium throughout</b></p> <p><b>Starts with the woman stuck in a room which is disequilibrium but then it is flashforward to the man crying in his car</b></p>
<p><b>Binary Oppositions:</b> <i>list and explain the oppositions present in the episode. How is this adding to narrative conflict?</i></p>	<p><b>Freedom vs Control</b></p> <p><b>Corporate vs Life</b></p> <p><b>Life and Death</b></p>

<b>Themes:</b> <i>What themes can you identify in the episode and how are these being portrayed so far?</i>	<b>There are themes of suspense and danger throughout</b> <b>How isolation and grief make us vulnerable</b> <b>Capitalism</b>
---	---