

# Narrative Elements

Below is a list of basic narrative elements that can be seen in episodes of TV. These terms are also relevant to real or imaginary short stories or essays you may have written before. Read the definitions and answer the questions; continue in your writing journal, if you need more space.

**Protagonist: The main character of the story; generally, the story is told through this character's eyes.**

Can you think of a strong protagonist from a TV show you've seen? What do you think makes them a good protagonist?

**Antagonist: The character, or even organization, that's trying to stop your protagonist from doing something. The antagonist believes they are the hero of their own story, and the protagonist is getting in the way of their goals.**

Can you think of a strong antagonist from a TV show you've seen? Why are they a good example of an antagonist?

**Conflict: What the protagonist and the antagonist are fighting about. In a TV show, you need a conflict that's problematic enough to structure several episodes of a show around.**

Can you think of a show with a really good conflict? What is the conflict and why do you think it's good?

**Resolution: How the conflict ends; the resolution is what the entire season of a TV show is framed around. If the conflict gets solved too early in the season, then the characters have nothing to work towards.**

Can you think of a satisfying resolution to a conflict from a show you've seen? What was the resolution, and why do you think it's satisfying? (This does not need to be the resolution to the conflict listed above.)

# Expectations

Think of a TV show that you plan to watch—it shouldn't be a series that you've seen before, but you should also be a little familiar with it. Answer the questions below to understand what you expect to see when you watch an episode.

**What is the title of the show? Also write down the genre if you know it.**

**What do you know about the show's protagonist?**

**What do you know about the show's antagonist?**

**What do you know about the show's conflict?**

**Take a guess at how you think the conflict might resolve itself—you don't have to look up any spoilers!**

**Why do you expect the narrative elements to show up in those ways? What is informing your expectations?**

# Notes

Watch an episode of the show you chose. (If you chose a 30-minute episode, you might need to watch a couple episodes to get a full picture of the narrative elements.) Take notes below about what you think “works” and “doesn’t work” about the episode keeping the narrative elements you wrote about on page 1 in mind.

**Name of the Episode:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1-Sentence Summary:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>What works in this episode?</b>	<b>What doesn't work in this episode?</b>

# Essay Outline

Outline your ideas for your argumentative essay below. Include the relevant evidence and your expectations from previous handouts. Continue in your writing journal if you need more space.

**BEGINNING:** Name of the TV show, the episode, a short summary, and any framing details that would be useful for your reader to know about the show as a whole. Your thesis should state whether or not you thought the show worked.

**MIDDLE:** Write about what you experienced, pulling in evidence from your notes. Include relevant details from the TV show itself to help make your point. Write about what you expected to see in this episode and why you expected those things.

**END:** If you felt the episode worked, summarize your opinion and the relevant details. If you felt the episode didn't work, how would fix the issues that were present in the episode?