Discussion post: worth 25 points

Literary journalism skill analysis: Scene transitions/setting and status details shading character

Shared by Pamela Fisher, Digital Media program director Azusa Pacific University, greater Los Angeles

Note: this is a discussion/forum post worth 25 points. We spend a whole class deconstructing the craft, components, tonal shifts, structure. It’s usually their favorite thing because they begin to see the way quotes lend a piece voice (and when to use partial, summary or full quotes), setting, status markers bring a character dimension and understand scene transitions.

Read and analyze this Anthony Bourdain profile in Fast Company. It has merit not just for its journalistic qualities of deep context, excellent quotes, scene transitions and setting but also the late chef’s inspiring story as a recovering heroin addict.

Structure: This is a personality profile; analyze its structure. Consider the kind of lead and what emotional response it is designed to produce in a reader.

Status details: What sort of a story is it -- simply a profile about a media personality or is there more going on here? What status details did you note that shade the character?

Context/character: How is the contextual information interwoven; how this shapes your understanding of who Bourdain is? Does their place in the story frame the way you read the rest of it?

Scene transitions: Where are the scene transitions in the story and how does the writer accomplish those narrative shifts? How does each setting shade a facet of chef Bourdain’s character?

Voice: Identify the most powerful quotes in this story and why you think the author selected them – how do they give voice and deepen the character of the subject? Can you identify the diction?

Literary craft devices: identify any alliteration, assonance, figurative language, foreshadowing, unusual syntax.