

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.