

Low Merit Breaking Bad Conflict

Conflict is a common convention used in most media texts as it creates rising tension, suspension, etc. [1] It is usually the basis of a text, hence "Breaking Bad." The conflict is Walter changing from a good, law abiding citizen, into a dangerous, Methamphetamine producing criminal. [1] These conflicts are due to binary oppositions, where one binary force causes the other to respond. A conflict could be internal or external, Walter is suffering from an internal conflict, where he is stuck between a good vs bad binary, where on the good side he is a husband, father and teacher, versus his bad side where he is known by the name Heisenberg, where he is a methamphetamine manufacturer who gets his way through destruction and power.

An example of this conflict is seen in episode 4, when he is sitting at Jesse's kitchen table trying to decide the fate of Krazy-8, who remains locked up in the basement. Walter is obviously showing signs of conflict as he sits with his head in his hands; he finally can't take the pressure, so he starts to smoke some marijuana to help give his mind some ease. [2] Walter is later questioned by Jesse about why he hasn't done yours." The purpose of this internal conflict between Walter's good sides versus his bad side, is to help his character alongside the storyline, where he could either turn back to doing well, or continue along his bad path. [3] This is important for the story and the development of Walter as a character, as it asks the question about how far he will go in order to provide for his family after he kicks the bucket, and won't be able to fund his family, or he is perhaps too sick to work at all. [4]

This conflict of good vs bad is important because it questions the motive behind Walter's wrong doings. [4] The conflict creates a mystery and unpredictability around Walter White, so the audience may wonder what he will do next and how/why, as he has an unpredictable personality, as he doesn't know his own boundaries yet, or how far he will go before the illegal activities he performs is too much for him. [5]