

SUITS

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The Dramatistic Perspective

Suits: ” *The dark side of Law*”



Background of Suits

American legal drama TV series aired on USA Network.

Mike Ross is a talented, unique individual, who got mixed up in some trouble which prevented him from going to law school and follow his dreams of being a lawyer.

The legendary Harvey Specter sees himself in Mike and hires him as his associate knowing he is a fraud.

They battle through many challenges throughout the show trying to keep this secret.

Major Lesson:

Unethical behavior will propel you to the top

Rule-breaking behavior:

- Mike blackmails Harvey to keep his job.
- Harvey passes on the pro bono case to Mike.

The Pentad

Act: Mike blackmails
Harvey to keep his job.

Agents: Mike

Agency: Telephone is used
when Harvey is speaking to
Donna from the intercom.

Scene: Harvey Specter's
office

Purpose: The purpose of
this rule-breaking act is for
Mike to keep his job.

The Pentad

Act: Harvey lies to keep his promotion and passes on the pro bono case to Mike

Agents: Harvey

Agency: Folder with the case file in it.

Scene: Jessica Pearson's office

Purpose: Concentrate on "more important" things than the pro bono case.

Cluster Analysis

- Cluster: “lying;” **devil term**
- Determined by frequency and intensity

Burke's Dramatistic Perspective

- Popular Culture texts provides, “rules for living”
- Identification: sharing similar attitudes, values, ideas, experiences, etc. *Consubstantiality*
- Division = opposite; causes **guilt**

Dramatistic Life Cycle

- People are going to follow this rule-breaking behavior and fall into what Burke calls the “Dramatistic life cycle”
- *Order*: “rules for living”; don’t break the law.
- *Pollution*: Harvey and Mike reject the law & display unethical behavior; **sin** ◦
Purification:
 - Mike is following a “higher calling” by his belief that he is helping people in need of serious legal attention; **transcendence**
 - Harvey is purified through victimage by scapegoating time. ◦ *Redemption*:
Temporary rebirth into social order.



Human Motivation Caused by Drama

- How far will one go in similar situations?
- Is it ever appropriate to break these “rules for living?”
- Humans have an innate desire to identify with others.

Social Skills identified to be necessary in the workplace:

- Persuasion
- Knowing how to Bluff
- Confidence



Thank you!