

What makes an Excellent Television Pilot?

TV Pilot Episode Comparison

Due Thurs. April. 12th (2-3-pages single spaced)

What makes a good TV pilot episode? What story, character and production techniques compel viewers (not just you) to **engage** in a TV series? What makes them **fully commit** (brand loyalty) to multiple seasons? What stimulates them to **binge-watch beyond** a simple desire to escape or to be entertained?

These are important questions in our current world of global television. In fact, given the intense competition for webTV viewers worldwide (Netflix, Amazon, Hulu, HBO, CBS, BBC, etc.), such questions have HUGE financial implications and potential returns\$\$\$.

Now it's your turn to be an insightful television critic.

The following are ALL strong TV series, but each with very different types of approaches when it comes to attracting audiences via their pilot episodes. Choose **TWO**, watch the pilot episodes and then COMPARE and CONTRAST their different approaches **technically** and **conceptually** (story/plot progression, character development, acting, visuals, effects, etc.).

Firefly

The Good Wife

Broadchurch

Jane the Virgin

This is Us

Stranger Things

Humans

Eye Witness

Designated Survivor

Turn

Nurse Jackie

Homeland

Halt and Catch Fire

Madam Secretary

The Tunnel

Suits

Nashville

WACO

Mozart in the Jungle

The Americans