



Sentient USA – Ten questions from the Author Joseph DiFrancesco

TASK 3

Please download the document and add your answer under the Qs.

1. Does the hook, (the inciting incident of the storm) immediately grab the reader?

Quite fantastic it does! There's enough to make the viewer/reader wanting to know more.

- 2) Are the individual set-ups (supporting character scenarios) compelling?

Yes as far as the story progresses. Each individual set-up scenario is craftily established. From JJ and Syd, JJ and Sal, Reese and Lena and then the other minor characters (from the little Amish girl, bearded man and his gang, Dallas and the characters of Joel, Carolyn and Damian and Captain Dyer towards the pilot ends need serious working especially in situating them to the events, let us see them, being part of it. They seem to be not fully integrated to what has happened thus not provoking that viewer/reader empathy.

3) Are any of the characters lacking in the ability to create viewer empathy?

Intro to Lena's realization of the new world needs more I expected it to be more terrifying, empathetic and emotional. I do not necessarily feel for her at first after breaking out of the basement. She does not show that connection/relationship between her colleagues waiting to celebrate her only to end up not because of the incident. It is then expected that she will be shocked to see them lifeless with their bodies piled up OR finds no trace of anyone except for broken glasses, torn curtain, overturned chairs and tables, stained bloods etc and thus she is bewildered and emotionally outburst.

4) A slow arc is being created. What short or long distant evolution do you see, or can you envision for certain characters?

I envisioned JJ destabilized psychologically, emotionally and regenerating to be formidable, strong and a figure head. I foresee Sal quite fanatical, overtly engaging and eventually landing himself into a pit, "Will be at war with JJ on crucial decision-making about their reception of the Sentient". I foresee Reese and Lena coming along, building up their intimacy although there could be tension in between which might be resolved or erupt. I

5) Is the overall pace effective?

Judging from the story's progression and on the bases of the formula guide, I will fairly agree that the story's pace flows moderately.

6) Are Sentient being under or over introduced?

Using the formula guide, our first sight of Sentient should be in Act Five towards the pilot ending, thus creating that "WOW" scenario for what is next. This was not even introduced. Again the clues to continue to create that hysteria in each scene like afflictions, ashes, red haze, hums, jetliners etc was undervalued as the story progresses.

7) What scenes need improvement? Why? How?

Mostly the scenes that do not conform to the formula guide as what is expected to be seen or felt – talking about the jetliners, red haze, ashes, smoldered cities etc Why because there is not enough strong clues that indicates all of this. How? By creating or advancing more clues in almost every scene until the last scene whereby a Sentient is introduced.

8) What scenes are the strongest? Why?

The opening scene, some scenes in ACT ONE because it conformed to the formula guide revealing some of the elements that are essential in telling us that something terrible is underway until then we need to embrace ourselves and be prepared for it.

9) What direction/s do you see USA going in?

They are heading for a powerful, anticipative direction, preparing for the worst to come.

10) What direction should be avoided?

A stagnated or directionless direction for all I can say☺. Direction that has no clue, with clue it keeps it strong, suspended and twisted.