

To understand the relationship between flatness and roundedness, we will examine an exchange between Walter White, Skyler White and Saul Goodman from S3, episode (11) of *Breaking Bad*.

Background to the scene:



After many years as a respected High School chemistry teacher, **Walter White (50)** was diagnosed with lung cancer. Desperate to provide a legacy for his family, and to pay for his own medical treatment, Walter has become a drug manufacturer, which he has tried to keep secret from his middle-class family. Within a few weeks, he found himself fully embroiled in the life of a drug dealer and, although he struggles with aspects of the work, he has murdered several potential enemies – including (semi-accidentally) his partner’s interfering girlfriend. He is now making a great deal of money manufacturing Meth Amphetamine.

Skyler White (39) is a middle-class housewife, trained as a bookkeeper, with aspirations to be a writer. When she initially discovered part of Walter’s secret (she is still unaware of the murders he has committed), Skyler was horrified. She threw Walter out and began divorce proceedings. She has recently ended a brief fling with her boss, which she began mainly to punish Walter for what he had done. Now, to pay her brother-in-law’s medical bills (after he was seriously injured the line of duty as a Federal Agent), Skyler has finally agreed to take the money Walter has made from his drugs business. She is concerned to make sure that the drug money cannot be traced by the police or the Inland Revenue Service, and has therefore arranged to meet with Walter and his lawyer, Saul Goodman.

Saul Goodman (46) is a corrupt lawyer who makes much of his living from bogus compensation claims and getting criminals out of jail on technicalities. He is also skilled at money laundering – a service he currently provides for Walter

*The summary above is almost completely **plot-based and external**. It tells us little about these three characters from the **inside**. Based on the information provided, what **personal qualities** would you expect each character to have?*

When we watch the sequence, think about how these three characters work in terms of flatness and roundedness. What are the benefits of having the different character types in this scene?