

## Avengers Assemble – Narrative

Structures

- Todorov

Codes

- Enigma
- Action

### Narrative Structure - Todorov

Think back to the Todorov model of narrative structure which you have previously studied. How does Avengers Assemble fit into this model?

<b>Todorov Model of Narrative Structure</b>	<b>How Avengers Assembles fits this model</b>
<p><b>Establishment of Equilibrium</b></p> <p>The establishment of the equilibrium</p> <p>What the world of the film and its characters are like at the start of the narrative.</p>	<p>As this is a superhero movie we understand that the world will be under threat at some point. The Earth is regarded as being vulnerable and open to attack by creatures from other worlds or other dimensions. At the beginning of the film we have the Other, the leader of the Chitauri, explaining his plan to send Loki to Earth to find the Tesseract. The establishment of the equilibrium is short and allows us to get into the action straight away.</p>
<p><b>Disruption of Equilibrium</b></p> <p>There is a disruption to all of this and the audience needs to be made aware of this</p> <p>This is done through the introduction of a character or object.</p>	<p>The conflict occurs through the introduction of Loki coming to Earth. Loki arrives at the SHIELD base through a portal opened by the Tesseract. If Loki locates the Tesseract then he will be given rule over the Earth as a reward.</p>

<p><b>Recognition of Disruption</b></p> <p>The characters find out about the disruption</p> <p>This creates a sense that we are more privileged than the characters.</p>	<p>Nick Fury is present when Loki arrives on Earth. Loki destroys the SHIELD base and takes the Tesseract as well as Barton and Selvig to aid him in his future plans. Fury realises that Loki is a danger to the Earth and decides to reactivate the Avengers Initiative – assembling a group of powerful superheroes to defend the Earth.</p>
<p><b>Attempt to Repair Disruption</b></p> <p>Attempts are made to repair the disruption and make the world of the film right again</p> <p>This is the largest section of the narrative and contains the various parts to ensure a level of interest and surprise to the events.</p>	<p>SHIELD must assemble a team to fight Loki and the Chitauri in order to save the Earth. The individual Avengers are brought together but there are conflicts within the team. This sustains the audience’s interest as they want to see how these disparate characters will work together. The Avengers capture Loki, but they have not stopped his plan. They have to figure out where the Tesseract is so that they can stop the inter-dimensional portal from being opened. This lends an element of suspense and intrigue to the film as well as allows for several big action sequences which will please the audience. This section of the film leads to a climactic battle in New York where the Avengers have to fight the invading Chitauri as well as locate and stop the Tesseract. This will please the audience as it is a spectacular action sequence which shows all of their favourite superheroes working together as a team.</p>
<p><b>Establishment of New Equilibrium</b></p> <p>The result of the climax on the world of the film</p> <p>What everything and everyone is like at the end.</p>	<p>The world of the resolution to this film provides a very neat and tidy contrast to the world of the introduction. The Tesseract has been retrieved, Loki is a prisoner and the world is no longer vulnerable. This last point is important as there must always be an overriding reason for the narrative to have taken place, otherwise what was the point.</p>

## Enigma Codes

What is an Enigma Code?

The producers of the text ensure that you follow and want to follow the narrative by including a series of enigma codes.

This means that the narrative will ensure that there is a piece of information left out that you need to know so that you understand what is going on or what is going to happen next.

This means that you are constantly wanting to see the next part in the hope that you will fully understand the previous.

How are Enigma Codes used in Avengers Assemble?

To properly analyse a narrative code you have to:

- Identify the enigma
- Explain how it is created
- Explain why it is used.

**Example:** At the start of the film, Thanos and The Other refer to someone they call their “ally”. This creates the enigma of wondering who this person is. This has been done to give the audience a reason to continue viewing and become engaged with the narrative. They are mentioned in the context of the Tesseract and, therefore, when Loki turns up to steal the Tesseract we understand they were referring to him. The end result of this enigma is that we are able to identify Loki as the main villain of the text.

## Action Codes

What is an Action Code?

An action code is an action that fits in with a recognised pattern of behaviour.

This helps us to understand what is happening and what will happen next.

How are Action Codes used in Avengers Assemble?

**Fits in with a recognised pattern of behaviour:** When the goon hits Romanoff, who is tied to a chair, we understand that she is being interrogated.

**What is happening and what will happen next:** The interrogators are looking for information and will continue until they have it.

**Fits in with a recognised pattern of behaviour:** When the little girl is holding out money with a sad face, we understand that she is pleading with Banner.

**What is happening and what will happen next:** The little girl is desperately in trouble and there is no way Banner is going to turn down such a cute kid.