(1)

Before Gabriel's case against the corrupt policeman had concluded and the cop was found not guilty on a count of shooting Gabriel & Florentino, Gabriel was a perfect example of someone with a BTL vision of legality. He talks about how he was "so happy" when the state decided to investigate because he wanted to see "justice" in action. This is a good example of Normativity in the BTL sense because Gabriel viewed the law as impartial and objective. He believed that regardless of WHO you are (criminal, cop, etc) that the law would render justice because he had faith in the system. He believed in the capacity of the American legal system and that its power & presence would bring him justice & make the corrupt policeman pay.
Gabriel viewed the law as separate from everyday life. He saw the law as a separate sphere, where he left his normal daily life in order to stand before the law and wait for justice. It was a good example of how legality is separate from everyday life. Because in BTL, the law controls time and space, there was no chance to enter the law but to wait. Also, Gabriel saw the law as predictable, showing his idea of constraint of the organizational structure. He believed in the rules and that what has to be done has to be done.
regulations would constrain the law & the legal actors (policeman) so that he would receive the outcome that he desired. Later in the story, however, Gabriel takes on a vision of the law that is more like the ATL vision, when he complains that he did not receive justice through the legal system like he believed that he was supposed to. He realizes that the law does not necessarily equal justice that the law is supposed to be consistent, but rather is arbitrary in that the outcome may not always be what you expect it to be. This is a perfect example of the Normativity characteristic of an ATL vision. When he talks about how he believes that Florentino did the right thing by "taking matters
into his own hands, he is describing Florentino as having an ATL vision of legality. Florentino continues to use his ATL vision when he pretends to be a cop in court in order to manipulate the press to listen to him. This is an example of using a masquerade to get what you want from the law. It is an example of the capacity of an ATL vision, Florentino used his ability to pretend to be a cop in order to exploit laws shortcomings.

Finally, later in the story we begin to see Gabriel & his friend using a more WTL vision of legality. We first see this when Florentino answers every question in court as slowly as possible.

Here, he is using time as a resource. As Gabriel and his friend
begin to smarter up to the legal system, they begin to live & think of the law with more of a with the law vision, rather than before or against it. The law becomes more like a game, and they are better skilled to play it. With help from someone who is more knowledgeable than themselves (the lawyer named Ms. Marquez) they are using the capacity of the WTL vision be they now have more experience and skills. They begin to use the law to achieve their own personal goal of ending police brutality & bringing their corruption to light. They do this w/ their plan to meet & educate each other and others in their neighborhood. This is another example of Normativity in the WTL vision. Also, by planning
on getting money for a better lawyer
next time around, they are
still thinking with a WTL vision.
Also, planning on using pictures/
video to catch the corrupt cops
is another example of how Gabriel
& his buddies have begun to view
the law with a WTL vision, bc they
are using text (pictures, video) as a
resource (time & space - WTL) to
their own advantage. mention Garcia's
WTL role in this.
Based on our readings, there are various reasons as to why people choose to obey or disobey the law. According to our Tom Tyler reading, there are 4 main reasons why someone might obey or disobey the law. First, there are social relations, why people would obey the law be of fear of how their peers (friends, family, etc.) might react to them if they didn’t. Also, there is Personal Morality, which Tyler describes as a person’s own ethical beliefs that would cause them to obey the law because they view breaking the law (using drugs, committing murder) as ethically & morally wrong. Third, there is a person’s belief that the law should be obeyed simply because they view the law (legal actors or institutions)
as having some sort of authority over them, regardless of the personal gains or losses that may come from obeying/disobeying the law. Tyler calls this Legitimate Authority. Finally, Tyler says another reason for why people may obey the law is Deterrence, or simply a fear of being caught or punished.

Martin Luther King, in his Letter from Birmingham Jail, justifies breaking some laws because he says, that some laws are just (which should be obeyed) while others are unjust which he believes are ok to disobey. MLK describes a just law as one that is square w/ the moral law or the law of God & one that uplifts human personality, one that a majority compels a minority to abide while being willing to abide by the same.
law themselves. An unjust law, according to MLK, would be the opposite of a just law. Also, in our popular will reading, it is mentioned that people obey the law because the laws were originally created by the people and are for the people. Popular will may have flaws, but overall is reasonable and any mistakes/flaws in popular will will eventually right themselves with time. This is partially why the Compassionate Use Act of 1996, which approved the use of medicinal marijuana in CA, had trouble being taken seriously. Because federal drug laws prevailed over Cali’s state laws, since federal drug laws in America were once decided by popular will, the people wanted marijuana to
be illegal because they saw it as dangerous in some way, and voiced their opinion through their votes.

well-organized

good