

SATIRE VIDEO PROJECT
AP ENGLISH

In groups of three to five, create a satirical video criticizing some contemporary issue, practice, or institution. Keep *Gulliver's Travels* and *The Handmaid's Tale* in mind as you create your satire and use them as models.

Your project will be assessed based on the degree to which it:

- reflects the definition of satire
- reflects preparation
- demonstrates quality involvement of the whole group
- is fiendishly clever
- is at least ten minutes long

Your completed project is a demonstration of your understanding of satire. I would recommend reviewing the definition of satire that follows below:

SATIRE: the literary art of mocking or ridiculing ideas, persons, events, or doctrines in hopes that things will change; the literary art of making fun of human vices, follies, foibles and weaknesses. The goal of satire is to ridicule and correct human vices. The satirist seeks to motivate people to change.

The following quotation, by noted (and familiar!) satirist, Jonathan Swift, describes the nature of satire quite well:

“Satire is a sort of glass wherein beholders do generally discover everybody’s face but their own, which is the chief reason for that kind of reception it meets in the world, and that so very few are offended by it.”

Consider Ian Jack’s observation:

“Satire is born of the instinct to protest; it is protest become art.”

DUE DATE: Monday, September 12, 2011

***It is quite common to confuse satire with **parody**—especially because parody is quite similar to satire. In order to avoid this confusion, take note of the following definition:

PARODY: a literary or artistic work that mimics/imitates/copies (in an absurd, foolish, ridiculous, or exaggerated fashion) the conventions, styles, and traits of an established work (or idea, person, or event). The goal of parody is to make fun of the subject.

Examples of parody in pop culture:

Musician (Artist? Entertainer?) Weird Al Yankovic
songs: “Eat it” (“Beat it,” Michael Jackson)
“I Can’t Watch This” (“You Can’t Touch This,” MC Hammer)
“Girls Just Want to Have Lunch” (“Girls Just Want to Have Fun,” Cyndi Lauper)
“Yoda” (“Lola,” The Kinks)

Saturday Night Live (Tina Fey’s parody of Sarah Palin is a good example)

Films by Mel Brooks:
Spaceballs (1987)
Robinhood: Men in Tights (1993)

