

## LESSON PLAN

# SATIRE

---

### SUMMARY:

- ⦿ 30 minute long presentation increasing media literacy about satire.
- ⦿ Discussing the helpful effects and drawbacks on those who consume satirical media.
- ⦿ How to identify satire to reduce the spread of misinformation

---

### LEARNING OBJECTIVE:

- ⦿ Analyze the interaction between satire and current events.
- ⦿ Identify satirical sources.
- ⦿ Identify satirical elements.
- ⦿ Differentiate satirical material from non-satirical material.

---

### BACKGROUND:

- ⦿ There are several known satirical news sites.
  - ⚡ The Onion, The Babylon Bee, The Daily Mash, National Report, etc....
- ⦿ There are several known satirical television programs.
  - ⚡ Daily Show with Trevor Noah, SNL, Late Night with Seth Meyers, and Last Week Tonight with John Oliver

---

### NEED:

- ⦿ Satire can be an effective device and encourage critical thinking.
  - ⚡ Political satire causes younger generations to participate in politics.
  - ⚡ Ability to offend and make the audience tickle at the same time.
- ⦿ Certain generations are more susceptible to trusting and sharing satirical information.
  - ⚡ Baby Boomers are likely to share satirical news on FB.
- ⦿ Gen Z is less trusting of information on the Internet, and more likely to fact-check.

Why people confuse satire with real news: (Activity short 2-clips – both of same news story, one satire one real news for reference). Then explain:

- ⚡ Satire mimics the tone of real news
- ⚡ Knowing that the story is satirical requires an in-depth understanding of the story at hand (background, context)
- ⚡ Satirical articles are not labeled as satirical – humans and trust bias
- ⚡ When our biases align with the story, we are likely to believe it (confirmation bias)

#### INTENDED AUDIENCE:

College students ages 18-25 who are likely to encounter and share satirical news via social media and for academic purposes.

- ☉ 30 participants max. Ensures group discussion.
- 

#### ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

- ☉ What is **satire**?

the use of humor, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose and criticize people's stupidity or vices, particularly in the context of contemporary politics and other topical issues.

- ☉ How do you identify it?

- ☼ **Horatian:** This type of satire makes fun of things in a soft or even loving manner. It is usually a form of parody that is intended to make people think.

- ☼ **Juvenalian:** This is the strongest type of satire as it attacks a single target in a vicious way. The most usual form of this satire is political satire, which attacks politicians and pundits.

- ☼ **Menippean:** This type of satire is similar in harshness to Juvenalian, but it attacks a more general target. An example is religious satire, which attacks sacred figures or religious beliefs.

- ☉ What are some of the types of satirical devices?

- ☼ **Diminution:** Reduces the size of something in order that it may be made to appear ridiculous or to be examined closely and have its faults

- seen up close. For example, treating the Canadian Members of Parliament as a squabbling group of little boys is an example of diminution. Gulliver's Travels is a diminutive satire.

- ☼ **Inflation:** A common technique of satire is to take a real-life situation and exaggerate it to such a degree that it becomes ridiculous, and its faults can be seen, and thus satirical. For example, two boys arguing over a possession of a car can be inflated into an interstellar war. The Rape of the Lock is an example of inflation.

- ☼ **Juxtaposition:** Place things of unequal importance side by side, it brings all the things down to the lowest level of importance on the list. For example, if a guy says his important subjects in school include Calculus, Computer Science, Physics, and girl-watching, he has managed to take away some of the importance of the first three. The Rape of the Lock is also an example of juxtaposition.

- ☼ **Parody** Imitates the techniques and style of some person, place, or thing. Parody is used for mocking or mocking the idea of the person, place, or thing. Monty Python is an example of parody.

- ☼ **Sarcasm:** Praise to personally mock/insult someone; a form of verbal irony.

- ☼ **Exaggeration:** Hyperbole and/or understatement. To enlarge, increase, or represent something beyond normal bounds so that it becomes ridiculous, and its fault can be seen.

- ✿ **Malapropism:** mistaken use of an incorrect word that sounds like the proper word
  - **Travesty:** Representation in a false, distorted way
- ✿ **Lampoon:** Publicly criticize or mock
- ✿ **Epigram:** short, witty saying
- ✿ **Burlesque:** an absurd, comically exaggerated imitation of something
- ✿ **Caricature:** show features in a dramatic, exaggerated way
- ✿ **Incongruity:** things that are out of place and do not match as they should
- ✿ **Oxymoron:** contradictory words side by side
- ✿ **Analogy:** comparison of two things in order to explain
- ✿ **Cynicism:** the ability to look askance at something, or something/someone and offer an opinion contrary to the status quo is a great tool for satire.

---

#### PREPARATION

- ◎ What you will need:
  - ✿ Access to Internet for interactive activity
    - ✿ We will be using Quizizz twice in our presentation. Once at the beginning and again at the end to gauge how much the group has learned from our presentation. Hopefully, the scores will go up after we inform the class with our presentation.
  - ✿ A plan on who talks when and about what.
    - ✿ Six people will split the hour with two five-minute segments.
      - ✿ Five-minute opening poll, discussion on what satire is, comparing/ contrasting satire to non-satire, spotting satirical sources, closing poll.

---

#### TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE AND TIMEFRAMES

- ◎ 5 minutes: Opening poll (pretest)
  - ✿ Quizizz
- ◎ Approx. 10 minutes: What is satire?
  - ✿ Discussion: Understanding what satire is & the distinct types of satire
    - ✿ Horatian
    - ✿ Juvenalian
    - ✿ Menippean
  - ✿ Common elements of satire
    - ✿ Parody, irony, exaggeration, juxtaposition, comparison, analogy, double entendre, understatement, incongruity, sarcasm, verbal irony, sarcasm, hyperbole, burlesque, caricature, oxymoron, incongruity, malapropism, travesty, lampoon, epigram, cynicism
  - ✿ Important vocab/terms (narrow down and highlight the most relevant ones from above list) - discussion via PowerPoint? Some other visual component? PREZI? (categorize by purpose, such as to explain, to humor...?)
  - ✿ Satire v. fake news
- ◎ Approx. 5 minutes: Comparing and contrasting satire to non-satirical materials.

- ✿ Activity: analyzing materials like The Onion v. CBS News.
- ✿ Provide articles, 2 minutes for participants to read, facilitate discussion about similarities and differences. Important for researching.
- ⦿ Approx. 5 minutes: Spotting satirical sources and satirical elements.
  - ✿ Activity: view videos from satirical news programs like SNL and Daily Show
  - ✿ Facilitated discussion about purpose and effects of viewing satirical news.
- ⦿ 10 minutes: Closing poll.
  - ✿ Quizizz (Same test at beginning to see if improvement was made)

### QUIZIZZ QUESTIONS:

1. What is satire?
  - a. Relies on truth and accuracy to inform the public
  - b. A serious story about real world events
  - c. the use of humor, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose and criticize people
2. What are the 3 types of satire?
  - a. Horatian, Menippean, Juvenalian
  - b. Parody, irony, sarcasm
  - c. Juxtaposition, exaggeration, hyperbole
  - d. Epigram, lampoon, caricature
3. What type of satire makes fun of things in a soft or even loving manner and is a form of parody that is intended to make people think?
  - a. Menippean
  - b. Horatian
  - c. Juvenalian
  - d. Sarcasm
4. What is the strongest type of satire that attacks a single target in a vicious way? (ex: political satire)
  - a. Menippean
  - b. Horatian
  - c. Juvenalian
  - d. Sarcasm
5. What type of satire attacks a more general target? (ex: religious satire)
  - a. Menippean
  - b. Horatian
  - c. Juvenalian
  - d. Sarcasm

6. Which is an example of satirical news?
  - a. World Star
  - b. **The Onion**
  - c. CNN
  - d. TMZ
7. How can you identify satire?
  - a. Accuracy
  - b. Relies on facts only
  - c. **Exaggeration**
8. Which demographic is more likely to believe satire?
  - a. **Baby Boomers**
  - b. Generation Z
  - c. Millennials
9. Why do people confuse satire with real news?
  - a. Satire is labeled as satire
  - b. Satire does not mimic the tone of real news
  - c. **Confirmation bias**
  - d. People have background and context about the topic