

Standards: 6, 7

Task: Satire Assignment

You have had a lot of experience with satire over the course of your year in IH. From Mark Twain to Kurt Vonnegut, Ken Kesey to *The Onion*, you've seen firsthand the forms and functions of the powerful literary technique that is satire. In addition, as a class we have listed "satirizable" elements of our world today. Now it is time to put your knowledge into practice.

Your task is to write a 3-4 page satiric piece that examines either a political, cultural, or social phenomena. Don't let the sound of that scare you; consider Dave Barry's article on SUVs (cultural), the *Onion* article on teenagers, and "hanging out" (social). You may choose to use an article form like *The Onion*, the satiric newspaper, or model it after Barry's SUV piece.

Important Stuff:

- Consider the voice that Barry creates and attempt to create your own.
- Include some of the tools of the satirist (humor, irony, burlesque). Identify in the margins of your final draft. (We'll discuss how to do this.)
- This is a different type of writing than a literary analysis. You won't have a thesis statement, but there will be a "crux" that holds your ideas together. Nonetheless, note how Barry has an appropriately insightful, interesting, and curiosity-generating intro that also includes important info on the direction of the article.
- HAVE FUN!

First draft due: _____

Final draft due: _____

Rubric:

	Weight	5	4	3	2-0
Satirical Techniques	X2	Student uses a variety of satirical techniques in satire, and can identify the techniques in his/her annotations.	Student uses some techniques, and can identify most of the techniques used in summary.	Student demonstrates a topical understanding of satirical techniques in satire and in summary.	No satirical techniques used or identified.
Format	X2	Choice of format demonstrates consideration for best way to deliver satire.	Choice of format shows some consideration for delivery of satire.	Choice of format shows minimal consideration for delivery of satire.	Thoughtful consideration of format choice? No thanks, I'll pass.
Subject of Satire	X2	Satire is developed enough that subject is clearly satirized.	Satire is not as developed. Subject of satire is somewhat satirized, or it is unclear what is being satirized.	Satire is not very developed. Piece demonstrates little understanding of satire.	Satire is not developed.
Conventions	X1	Conventions are mastered. Writing helps get ideas across.	There are some errors in writing that get in the way of understanding.	There are many errors in writing that get in the way of understanding.	Paper was not edited.