



Political Satire Project Outline

It's time to try your hand at creating political satire! The key to success in creating good political satire is to use your own style, sense of humor, and opinions to create an informed and humorous piece that also communicates your point of view about a specific issue or politician.

Since this is an election year, the political satire that you create for this project should focus on a specific political group, politician, political issue, etc. related to a national, state, or local political race.

Your political satire could be done in one of a number of formats, including:

- A piece of writing (including a “fake” newspaper similar to The Onion (<http://www.theonion.com>) or The White House (<http://www.whitehouse.org>)
- A political cartoon
- A song (could be set to a popular tune/song that everyone knows)
- A play or video (similar to the “fake” newscasts seen on television’s “The Daily Show with Jon Stewart” or “Saturday Night Live’s Weekend Update”)
- Have another idea? Discuss it with your teacher first to get approval.

Key Things to Keep in Mind When Planning Your Project

1. Be knowledgeable about the topic, people, and point of view involved. Do your research and get as much information as you can about the topic of your choice. This will allow you to form a stronger opinion and express it more clearly. Know the message or point of view you want to convey, and then plan your project so that you successfully deliver that message to your audience.
2. Be appropriate in your presentation. Satire is meant to amuse people, but you should keep your school’s conduct policies in mind when planning your project. Keep it clean.
3. Prepare a high quality presentation. If you are doing written work, pay attention to the rules of grammar, usage, and mechanics. If you are doing artwork, make it your best drawing with lots of visual interest. If you are performing a musical piece, practice so you can perform it well. We want to hear the lyrics and recognize the tune. Finally, if you are producing a play or video, get in to character, be convincing in your presentation, and speak so you can be heard.
4. Be prepared to share your work. You will need to be able to talk about your project and field questions regarding the who, what, when, where, why, and how related to the subject of your presentation. Be able to discuss the research you did and the facts you learned.
5. Be original. Anything you can do to make your presentation memorable will help you reach a broader audience.

