

The Process for Setting up a Satire Essay

Devine – English 10 Honors

- 1) **Find a topic or person to satirize.** Be up to date on current affairs, both local and national. Chose the subject wisely, making sure the issue is something of great importance to you. Fact-check your information by checking multiple reputable sources and make sure the information is up to date.
- 2) **Make sure your criticism of a particular subject is valid** and the subject is put into focus. Also, determine your writing style and voice in your piece. Go for the ideal style, which is literary, sly, under-handed and trenchant. Do not be outwardly insulting or obscene, as such shock value will detract from good satire. The Bandersnatch website, a publication specializing in satire, uses the term "delightfully vicious" in describing the ideal satire writing style.
- 3) **Know your intended audience.** Be certain that readers know what you are satirizing. If you plan to parody a person by substituting the name in the piece, for instance, it should be immediately obvious whom you are actually satirizing by your descriptions.
- 4) **Choose an eye-catching title and picture.** Use a clever title that will immediately let the reader know that it is a satire. Also, use a good picture of your intended subject to accompany the article. If the piece is for a newspaper, the picture might be provided for you by the editor.
- 5) **Pick a technique that will work well** with how you want to approach it. This might be an allegory, caricature, fable, parody or other device. Check the hand-out entitled *Different Elements to Use When Creating a Satire*.

Elements adapted from: www.ehow.com/print/how_8454317_start-satire-essay.html