

SATIRE PROJECT – Writing a Short Story / Children’s Book (individual project)

Create a short story (like “Miss Kindergarten America”) or a children’s book (like *The Butter Battle Book*) to expose a vice in our society. You may use whatever narrative structure you choose. While your problem should be a serious issue, your satirical story should be light and humorous. The essay / story should be “fun” to read while drawing attention to an important social issue.

Step 1: Brainstorm and Research

Brainstorm a social issue which piques your interest. Make sure the topic is important enough that you can gather published information on it. Some general guidelines:

- Try to think of something that poses a genuine problem, even if it seems more specific to certain groups.
- Avoid typical “teen” issues and look at the larger scope of society.
- Think of how the authors we have studied pointed out flaws in society in a mild-mannered way. The reader gets the point without you having to be too abrupt or callous.
- Highlight the pertinent information in your research (quotations, statistics, people or places, other data, etc) and attach these sources to your finished satire.

Step 2: Organize and Write

Once you have all the ‘hard facts’ that you need, you can begin writing your story.

- Choose a structure that will aid in your satire; keep your audience in mind when choosing your structure
- Create a setting and characters that reflect the research you’ve done on the topic. You should not be citing information/research in your story, but the reader should recognize real places, people, events that help to create the satire. (Think about the Berlin Wall in *The Butter Battle Book* or the Miss-Pre-Sub-Teen America reference in “Miss Kindergarten America.”)
- Your story should be a minimum of 1 ½ double-spaced pages, including classroom formatting.
- Include a title for your piece – this should incorporate the satire into the title (perhaps through irony)

Assessment

- You will be assessed on your ability to effectively satirize your chosen issue while maintaining a serious, objective tone. See project rubric for more detail.