**AP Language**

**My Modest Proposal**

CBAPELC C1—The course teaches and requires students to write in several forms (e.g., narrative, expository, analytical, and argumentative essays) about a variety of subjects (e.g., public policies, popular culture, personal experiences).

CBAPELC C2—The course requires students to write essays that proceed through several stages or drafts, with revision aided by teacher and peers.

CBAPELC S5—An effective use of rhetoric, including controlling tone, establishing and maintaining voice, and achieving appropriate emphasis through diction and sentence structure.

**In the style of Jonathan Swift, you will write your own “Modest Proposal,” which will be an argument in a satirical style. This paper should be at least 2.5 pages typed and double-spaced, MLA format.**

**Due Dates Peer Pitch Session: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Peer Edit: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Final draft**: **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**PAPER REQUIREMENTS**

1. Review the satire PowerPoint (on the blog) and also think about the articles you and your classmates read from *The Onion*. What style of satire do you prefer?
2. What argument do you want to make? You may write a satire that relates to your researched argument paper, to a global issue, or to a local issue.
3. Your topic: Your topic must be about a real, timely issue that you want to expose or change. It has to be timely in order to be funny.
4. Your format: This might be an essay, a brochure, a letter, a news article, etc. Just make sure the length is commensurate with a 2.5 page essay (about 850 words).
5. You must include your “Pitch” session feedback from your peers.

**PITCH SESSION REQUIREMENTS**

Pitcher: For this exercise, you will present your idea for your modest proposal to a classmate. Your pitch should be two minutes and include your thesis, or if you don’t yet have a clear thesis statement, then your topic and proposed focus. You should have some idea about how you intend to develop and support your thesis or topic. If you do not yet have that clearly formulated, you should have several ideas about how you might develop and support your thesis/topic. **Pitch must be typed in MLA format and** **should include:**

* Your name
* Your topic
* Your focus for the paper: why you decided to write about this topic
* What “truth” you are trying to expose through your satire
* The target audience
* How you will develop this topic in a satirical process essay format
* What satirical/rhetorical devices you might incorporate

You will have an opportunity to consider questions or brainstorm with your peers about your paper. Jot down notes as you peers respond. You will turn in your pitch notes along with your final draft. Process Essay: You may want to use the style of a process essay (see Patterns ch. 9 pp.263-278).

Audience: During your peer’s pitch, you will provide feedback for your peer to jot down. Some crucial points:

* Most importantly: IS it SATIRE? Does it express the opposite of what the author really feels?
* What is the thesis? Is it clear? Even though you are writing a satire, you must still have a strong primary claim.
* What kind of satire is it? Parody? Wit? Lampoon? Farce? Invective? Remember that there can be more than a single form for the paper.
* If the proposal does not have a clear thesis statement, what is your impression of the focus of the paper? How might your partners focus their paper?
* How will the paper be developed? What kind of analytical lens, additional information or argument elements would make the paper clear and effective? Meaning, how will you use real evidence to back up your primary claim?
* What questions do you have that are as yet unanswered?

**You will not be allowed to participate in a pitch session and will lose points on your final paper if you do not bring in a printed pitch. This exercise is for your benefit and that of your classmates. Do not waste their time if you are not willing to be prepared.**

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**Your Modest Proposal Peer Editing**

**Author \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Editor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Editors—For each of the following categories, write a 2-3 sentence comment for the author which evaluates the essay according to the questions posed. This will be done in addition to any proofreading, editing, or commentary you offer on the rough draft itself.**

**Satire**

Is it Satire? Does it seem to propose the opposite of its actual thesis? It should be subtle, humorous, and hold a mirror to a social problem, popular culture, or personal experience.

**Strength/Focus/Validity of Argument**

Can you determine what the author truly believes underneath the satirical front? Is there a clear claim, purpose, and audience? Does the entire essay maintain a consistent tone and focus throughout?

**Topic Timeliness**

Does the proposal address specific details that are relevant for today’s culture? Is the claim developed with appropriate evidence, cogent explanations, and clear transitions?

**Conventions**

Is the essay polished, edited for grammatical errors, use a variety of sentence structures, and utilize purposeful punctuation/wording?

**Format**

Is it a process essay? Are there at least 850 words? Does it follow MLA style pagination, spacing, and margins?

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**Satire Essay (My Modest Proposal) Rubric**

**Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Does Not Meet Standard**  **2** | **Emerges to Meet Standard**  **3** | **Meets Standard**  **4** | **Masters**  **Standard**  **5** | **Weight** |
| **Satire**  Subtle, humorous, holds a mirror to a social problem.  CBAPELC C1—The course teaches and requires students to write in several forms (e.g., narrative, expository, analytical, and argumentative essays) about a variety of subjects (e.g., public policies, popular culture, personal experiences). |  |  |  |  | **x 7** |
| **Strength/Focus/Validity of Argument**  Clear claim, purpose, and audience  [ELA11W1.a](http://picasso.cobbk12.org/index.php?module=curriculum&type=standards&func=display&StandardID=16677&CourseID=345) Establishes a clear, distinctive, and coherent thesis or perspective and maintains a consistent tone and focus throughout. |  |  |  |  | **x 6** |
| **Topic Timeliness**  specific details; relevant for today’s culture  CBAPELC LO5—produce expository, analytical, and argumentative compositions that introduce a complex central idea and develop it with appropriate evidence drawn from primary and/or secondary sources, cogent explanations, and clear transitions |  |  |  |  | **x 4** |
| **Conventions**  Polished, edited for grammatical errors, sentence variety, and purposeful punctuation/wording.  CBAPELC LO6—demonstrate understanding and mastery of standard written English as well as stylistic maturity in their own writings |  |  |  |  | **x 2** |
| **Format**  850 words, MLA style, Process Essay; Includes Pitch Notes & Rough Draft  ELA11C2.c Reflects appropriate format requirements, including pagination, spacing, and margins, and integration of source material with appropriate citations |  |  |  |  | **x 1** |

**Total \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**