Satire Project

Due: Tuesday, January 21, 2014

Think about aspects of society people living during the Anglo-Saxon, Medieval, or Renaissance periods would have considered a major problem. What about society would have made them angry? What is an aspect of society they might have liked to see changed? Draw from Beowulf, The Canterbury Tales, Hamlet, or Frankenstein for your inspiration.

For this two-part assignment, students will work independently or in groups to demonstrate an understanding of satire by picking a topic that answers one of the questions above. Read all instructions for form and content of this project carefully. Points may be deducted for failure to follow instructions or for incorrect formatting.

NOTE: All writing must be typed and double-spaced in MLA format with one-inch margins, size 12 Times New Roman font. If you have questions about how to do this, please ask.

First, choose a problem. Remember that regardless of the topic chosen, you should keep content appropriate for a public high school class. Also, consider your purpose and audience. Here are some ideas for topics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>War</th>
<th>Taxes/Money/Economy</th>
<th>Children</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Healthcare/Disease</td>
<td>Monarchy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Class</td>
<td>Religion</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>Marriage</td>
<td>Please see me if you are interested in a topic not on this list</td>
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Part I: Creative Satirical Response to the Problem

Social problems are often the source of satire. Now it is your turn to create a satirical response to the problem in society you have identified. There are many forms of satire; therefore, your response may take many forms. Pay attention to the guidelines for each option as they vary slightly according to the form your satire will take. When responding, ensure that you follow the guidelines listed for your chosen option, but be creative and thorough. Recall the definition of satire (the literary art of diminishing or derogating a subject by making it ridiculous and evoking towards it attitudes of amusement, contempt scorn, or indignation) as you create your masterpiece. As always, see me if you have ANY questions about your project and/or the appropriateness of your response.

Possible Formats for Part I

Artistic Interpretation:

Many political cartoons are satiric in their representation of society. Even more television shows respond satirically to societal issues. Think about these political cartoons and shows (The Simpson’s, The Daily Show, The Colbert Report) when creating your own satire. Keep in mind that many television shows have content inappropriate for school; your project must include only school-appropriate content. Final product requirements are as follows:

- cartoons must be at least a full sheet of computer paper, your own original art, and show evidence of thought and planning. Individual project only.
- video parody or news report must be at least 5 minutes in length but no longer than 10 minutes, appropriate for school, and easily viewed on a computer or VCR/DVD player. Groups of no more than 6.
- diorama: depict a scene from one of literary choices applying satirical mode and devices. Individual.

**Musical Interpretation:**

Musicians often use satire in their songs. Blue’s Traveler’s song “Hook” and Bruce Springsteen’s song “Born in the U.S.A.” are examples of satire. Weird Al Yankovic often uses satire in the form of parody in his songs. You, too, may create satire with songs. If you are creating a song, keep in mind that your song

- must be 2 minutes long
- may be recorded or presented live, but it MUST be ready to present to the class on the due date
- must have lyrics typed school appropriate

**Written Interpretation:**

The majority of the satire we have looked at in class has been written. In *Gulliver’s Travels* and “A Modest Proposal,” Swift takes on British society and culture. The *Jon Stewart Presents America* mock textbook satirizes the way in which American’s view and study history. Dr. Seuss’s *Butter Battle Book* satirizes the Cold War. You have many examples from which to work when creating a written, satirical response to the issue you have chosen, including:

- a news article such as those presented by *The Onion* online publication-Individual
- a “modest proposal” outlining a solution to a problem-Individual
- a children’s book or pop-up book—Groups of 2

All written responses must be 2-3 pages typed and follow the MLA formatting instructions.

If you have an idea for satire that has not been listed, see me. There are possibilities for combining categories, and we will work together to ensure that your project meets the guidelines.

**Part II: Reflection on Student Work:**

All projects will conclude with a 500 word typewritten reflection which explains:

a. how the societal problem you chose affects the characters in your chosen piece.
b. why you chose the particular mode of satire to address the societal problem
c. how your interpretation effectively satirizes the aspect you chose (use the definition to back up your answer)

Students working in groups will be required to submit an original reflection from each group member.

**RECAP: All projects will include (in this order)—**

I. Original satire of the problem. May be artwork, script, lyrics, or written satire. (Length varies according to format.)
II. Written reflection on work completed from each student (500 words).
Checklist for Satire Project

Part I: Check the type of response that applies to your work  ________/50 points

_____ Artistic Response:
   _____ video:
      _____ 5+ minutes in length
      _____ easily viewed on a computer or VCR/DVD player
      _____ shows evidence of thought and planning
      _____ clearly satirical
      _____ appropriate for school

_____ Musical Response:
   _____ 2+ minutes long
   _____ may be recorded or presented live
   _____ shows evidence of thought and planning
   _____ clearly satirical
   _____ appropriate for school

_____ Written Response:
   _____ 2-3 pages typed and double-spaced with one-inch margins
   _____ creatively interprets the issue
   _____ shows evidence of thought and planning
   _____ clearly satirical
   _____ appropriate for school

Part II: A response that: ________/50 points

_____ is typed and double-spaced with one-inch margins
_____ is ½ - 1 page in length
_____ explains the choice of societal problem
_____ explains the choice of form
_____ explains how the interpretation satirizes problem

TOTAL POINTS FOR PROJECT
 ________/100 points