

Got Satire?

A Jane Austen-inspired RAFT

Instead of a direct literary analysis of *Pride and Prejudice*, to show your full appreciation and understanding of the complexity of the novel, you will be writing your own satirical essay – inspired by Austen’s unique style. To give you a bit of direction, the assignment is in the form of a RAFT:

Role:

Here are two options (open to other ones):

1) Take on the persona (if necessary) of a high school student disenchanted with one or more of the following:

- The state of romance/courtship in today’s society or just at OPRFHS
- The rules of the OPRFHS administration or simply the accepted “manners” of OPRFHS culture
- A particular author/book you have read for English class
- A gender, class or other division within the school (men vs. women, River Forest vs. Oak Park, teacher vs. student, etc)

2) Take on the persona of any character in *Pride and Prejudice* (except Elizabeth) who is disenchanted with one or more of the following:

- Austen’s portrayal of you
- Austen’s portrayal of English society
- The way Austen ended the novel
- Elizabeth herself

Audience:

If you are writing as a high school student, your audience is either an incoming first-year student at OPRFHS – or an outsider who is considering transferring to the school.

If you are writing as a *Pride and Prejudice* character, your audience is a student in AP College English.

Form:

You are writing an argument attempting to persuade your audience of the validity of your perspective. It can take the form of an **op-ed for the student newspaper**, a **letter to an individual** or **some type of guide to manners or social life**. I am open to a variety of parodic possibilities here (a **Dear Abby exchange**, a **mock Instagram account**, etc), but any choice must allow for some satirical depth.

You should complete this assignment as an individual UNLESS you construct a **video** (maybe in the persona of someone who has a YouTube advice channel) that presents the satire.

You can write in Austen-esque prose or you can choose a more contemporary style. But, regardless, you must employ – throughout your writing – one or more of the following satirical techniques:

- Irony (verbal, situational, and/or dramatic)

- Sarcasm
- Hyperbole
- Understatement
- Parody

Topic:

Of course, in order to write an effective satire – and not just a comedy – you must have a point. In other words, you must be making a social commentary, criticizing and calling for change in some aspect of society.

The scoring for the assignment will roughly follow these guidelines:

Assuming your role: having a distinct voice and audience **10 points**

Using satirical techniques effectively **20 points**

Having a point to the humor, a clear commentary on society **10 points**

Total 40 points