

Name _____

QOHS AP® ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION FREE-RESPONSE QUESTION 3

Writing Prompt: Human weakness plagues us all, and, by extension, our society as a whole. Consider the many kinds of human weakness and folly, and write an essay in which you examine one particular weakness or folly and its consequences.

Start writing here...

Requirements:

- ☐ 750 words, minimum
- ☐ appropriate, humorous critique (we will ask you to re-write if your topic is not appropriate)
- ☐ double spaced, typed on Google Docs
- ☐ no SHARING except with the Online Writing Center
- ☐ submit to Turnitin.com

Satire Planning Sheet

The first step to writing a creative argument is finding a rich subject. Think of things that you wish that you could change about society. Consider **policies** that you disagree with. Think about **attitudes** and **patterns of behavior** that disturb you. Reflect on **institutions** in need of **reform**.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

1. What human [vice or folly](#) is represented in each item on your list? Which do you regard with the most contempt? Which subjects offer you the richest opportunities as a writer? Choose ONE. This is your problem to solve, the subject of your satire.

Name _____

2. The target of my satire will be _____
3. How will you structure your satire? You should imitate a specific style. **Highlight** one:
 - a. Letter to person in power
 - b. Journal entry
 - c. Newspaper article
 - d. Newscast
 - e. Speech
 - f. Short story
 - g. MCPS memo / Letter home to parents
 - h. Other: _____

Now write a satire in which you adopt a persona that voices the opinion that is the opposite of what you actually believe. Use that voice to mock the opposition and make your audience see their flawed thinking. Use SOAPSTone to clarify your thinking:

Subject (What is the issue you are addressing?)	
Occasion (What prompted this satire? Detail the real or imagined context)	
Audience (To whom are you speaking? Who needs to hear the message?)	
Purpose (What weakness or folly are you attacking in your argument?)	
Speaker (detail the <i>persona</i> that you assume in this work of satire)	
Tones (What is the attitude of your adopted persona towards the subject? what is your actual attitude towards the subject?)	

Name _____

Helpful Tips for writing funny satire:

- ☐ Use irony by saying the opposite of what you really mean.
- ☐ Adopt a manner of speaking that does not fit the subject matter.
- ☐ Write an absurd solution to the problem you are criticizing. Make your proposed solution a great exaggeration.
- ☐ Make your adopted persona naïve. Focus on irrelevant details, and offer solutions that miss the important issues.
- ☐ Include specific details, not abstract ideas. This is a great opportunity for humor.
- ☐ Speak in such a way that you make yourself guilty of the very thing you are criticizing.
- ☐ Sarcasm is encouraged! Adopting a sassy tone can be effective

Reminders:

- Remember to review definitions for satire; satire often uses hyperbole, sarcasm, humor, and elements of the absurd as techniques in order to make its point.
- Be knowledgeable about the topic, people, and point of view involved. Do your research and get as much accurate information as you can about the topic of your choice. This will allow you to form a stronger opinion and express it more clearly. Know the message or point of view you want to convey, and then plan your project so that you successfully deliver that message to your audience.
- Be appropriate in your presentation. Satire is meant to amuse people, but you should keep school policies in mind when planning your project. Keep it clean.
- Prepare a high quality presentation. If you are doing written work, pay attention to the rules of grammar, usage, and mechanics.
- Limit your use of invectives or harsh reductions. Remember, the point of satire is not to offend but to bring about awareness of the social issue. If you offend your audience, they may never learn the lesson or change their behavior. Be warned: your proposal needs to attack a social vice, NOT a person or subgroup!