

Modest Proposal Low-Stakes Writing Assignment

Genre: Satire Article for the Onion

Purpose: Suggest a satirical solution to a modern day problem

Audience: Readers of the Onion

For this assignment, you will be picking a modern day problem and suggesting a satirical solution to it. You have read “A Modest Proposal” by Jonathan Swift, and we went over several examples from the Onion in class. Keep these examples, as well as audience, purpose, and genre, in mind while you are writing. Your finished product should follow conventions of the genre, serve the purpose listed above, and be interesting for the intended audience to read.

Remember, that not only should this piece be satirical (meaning it can be funny, or absurd), but it should also have enough evidence to convince your audience that you are proposing a well thought out solution—much like “A Modest Proposal” does.

Genre specific conventions to consider when writing:

- Funny or absurd
- Presents several pieces of evidence supporting argument
- Relates to modern issues
- Short paragraphs (3-4 sentences)
- Typically around 1-2 pages double spaced in length (Times New Roman, 12 point font)

This assignment is worth **10 points** toward the Informal Writing Assignments grade category, though it will be graded based upon the attached rubric.

Due dates:

October 2nd by Midnight

Grading Criteria	3 points	2 points	1 point	0 points
Genre	Does an excellent job relating to a modern issue, and presenting an absurd or funny solution. Follows genre formatting closely.	Does a fair job relating to a modern issues, and presenting an absurd or funny solution, or does a fair job following genre formatting.	Does not relate to a modern issue, and present an absurd or funny solution, or does not follow genre formatting.	Does not meet any of this criteria.
Audience	Does an excellent job catching the attention of the audience, and relates to the audience throughout.	Does a fair job catching the attention of the audience, and relates to the audience throughout.	Not audience appropriate or does not catch and hold interest of audience.	Does not meet any of this criteria.
Purpose	Does an excellent job presenting evidence to convince the audience that the solution is well thought out.	Does a fair job presenting evidence to convince the audience that the solution is well thought out.	Does a poor job presenting evidence to convince the audience that the solution is well thought out.	Does not present evidence to convince the audience that the solution is well thought out.
Revision and Proofreading	N/A	N/A	Final product is proofread for grammar and mechanics and spellchecked.	Final product is not proofread for grammar and mechanics and spellchecked.