Satire

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Satire is…

- A literary technique in which ideas, customs, behaviors, or institutions are ridiculed for the purpose of improving society.

- So…
  1. Makes fun of something
  2. To bring about change
Characteristics of Satire

• Criticism – to judge or critique the actions of human nature or society.
• Satire can make a vice laughable or reprehensible and can bring social pressure on those who engage in wrongdoing.
• It seeks to reform public behavior or at the very least to send a wake-up call to a corrupt culture.
• Satire is often implied and assumes readers can pick up on its moral clues.
Characteristics of Satire

- Some kind of moral voice: simply mocking or criticizing is not “satire.”
- Satire ridicules its subject through the use of techniques such as:
  - exaggeration
  - reversal
  - incongruity
  - parody
Techniques of Satire in Parodies

- To imitate the techniques and/or style of some person, place or thing.
  - *Not Another Teen Movie*
  - *Austin Powers*
  - *The Boondocks*
  - *Monty Python*
  - *Family Guy*
Reversal

- To present the opposite of the normal order or the standard (e.g., the order of events, hierarchical order or gender roles)
- Or to present the opposite of what the author actually wants to happen in order to make a point
Reversal

Fat kids, the new norm.
Incongruity

- To present things that are out of place or are absurd in relation to its surroundings
- Can also relate to humor that sets up a person to expect one type of outcome, and is surprised by a completely different outcome
- Cartoons without captions often rely on incongruity (visual puns or juxtaposition) to be humorous.
In Shrek...

- Princess Fiona uses her ponytail to deliver a knockout punch to one of the Merry Men. While frozen in a mid-air martial arts kick, Princess Fiona pauses to fix her disheveled hair before knocking out two of the Merry Men.
Exaggeration

- To enlarge, increase, or represent something beyond normal bounds so that it becomes ridiculous and its faults can be seen.
REVOLUTIONARIES

Even if you spend your whole life combatting the forces of capitalism, you still might wind up on a t-shirt sold in a store owned by the Gap.
HOW TO INCREASE VOTER TURNOUT...

[Cartoon showing a person writing at a voting machine with options for President, Congress, and American Idol.]
ARE YOU PATRIOTIC?

DO YOU:

Wear a flag pin?

Decorate your bumper?

Place your hand over your heart during the National Anthem?

Congratulations!
YOU'RE A REAL, GOD-FEARING PATRIOTIC AMERICAN

ACCUSE SOMEONE OF ANTI-AMERICANISM IF THEY DON'T FOLLOW THE ABOVE?
"I figure it's easier to find a war than a job these days."