

How to Write Satire About Current Events

Satire is the art of bringing attention to a particular problem, fault or issue by blending criticism with humor. Current events are a prime target of satire because most people who write or perform satire are trying to raise awareness as well as entertain. Modern satire about current events can be found on television shows such as Saturday Night Live and The Daily Show or found in publications such as The Onion and political cartoons in The New Yorker. Write satire about current events by knowing current events and your audience, researching all angles of the current event you are satirizing and making an argument.



1 Research current events. In order to write satire about current events, you will need to understand the major issues of the day.

Read newspapers, blogs and websites that chronicle the news of the day and offer commentary. Watch television as well, especially news stations such as CNN, MSNBC, Fox News and CNBC.



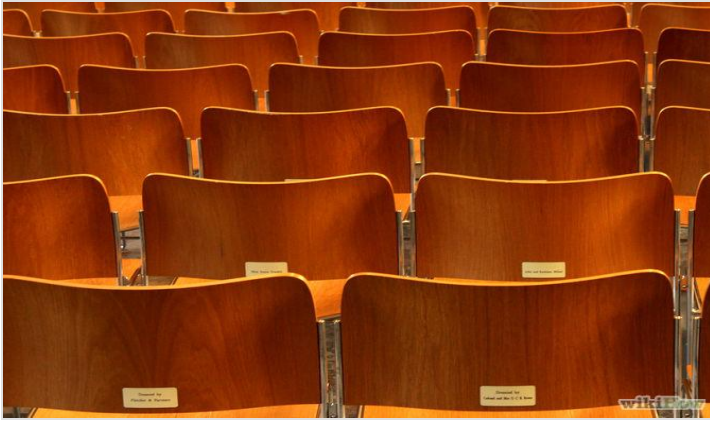
2Keep your knowledge current and up to date. Developments in current events change and evolve quickly, and with the instant online access, your audience will know the news as it happens.



3Choose a subject to satirize. Most current event satires revolve around a political issue, an event or a person.

- Evaluate your competition. Many satirists will write about the latest celebrities, elections and controversies. For example, The Daily Show and The Colbert Report focus much of their satire on presidential elections. Choosing a topic that is relevant but getting less attention may be a wise strategy.
- Choose a topic that interests you. Since you will be researching, thinking and writing about it, your interest is necessary. For example, if you are interested in equality, write satire about gay marriage or affirmative action. If you are passionate about the environment, write satire about climate change.

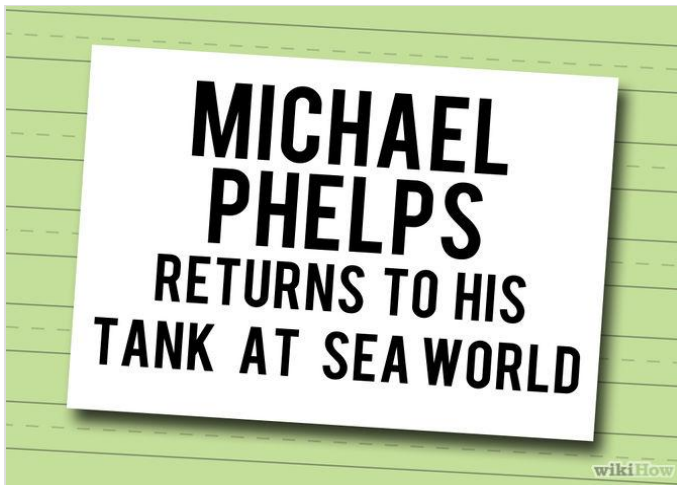
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4 Write for your audience. You want people to read your satire, so keep it simple and make sure your audience will understand what you are saying.

- Research your demographics. Writing satire that resonates with single professionals is great unless the people reading your work are elderly married couples who are retired.

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Create an attention-grabbing title for your satire. Readers are saturated with current event news, so make sure your title reflects something they will want to read.

- Be funny and timely. For example, right after the Olympics, The Onion ran a story with the headline "Michael Phelps Returns to his Tank at Sea World."



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Write with your goal in mind. Your goal might be to raise awareness for an issue or improve upon a problem.

- Help the audience to consider problems they might not have been aware of by poking fun at those problems or addressing the terrible solutions that are currently in place.
- Inspire your readers to act. There should not be a specific call to action in your writing, but using your words and humor to encourage people to change the way they think or act is part of well-written satire.



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Make people laugh. Your humor does not have to be outrageous, but entertaining your readers with wit will help your writing resonate.



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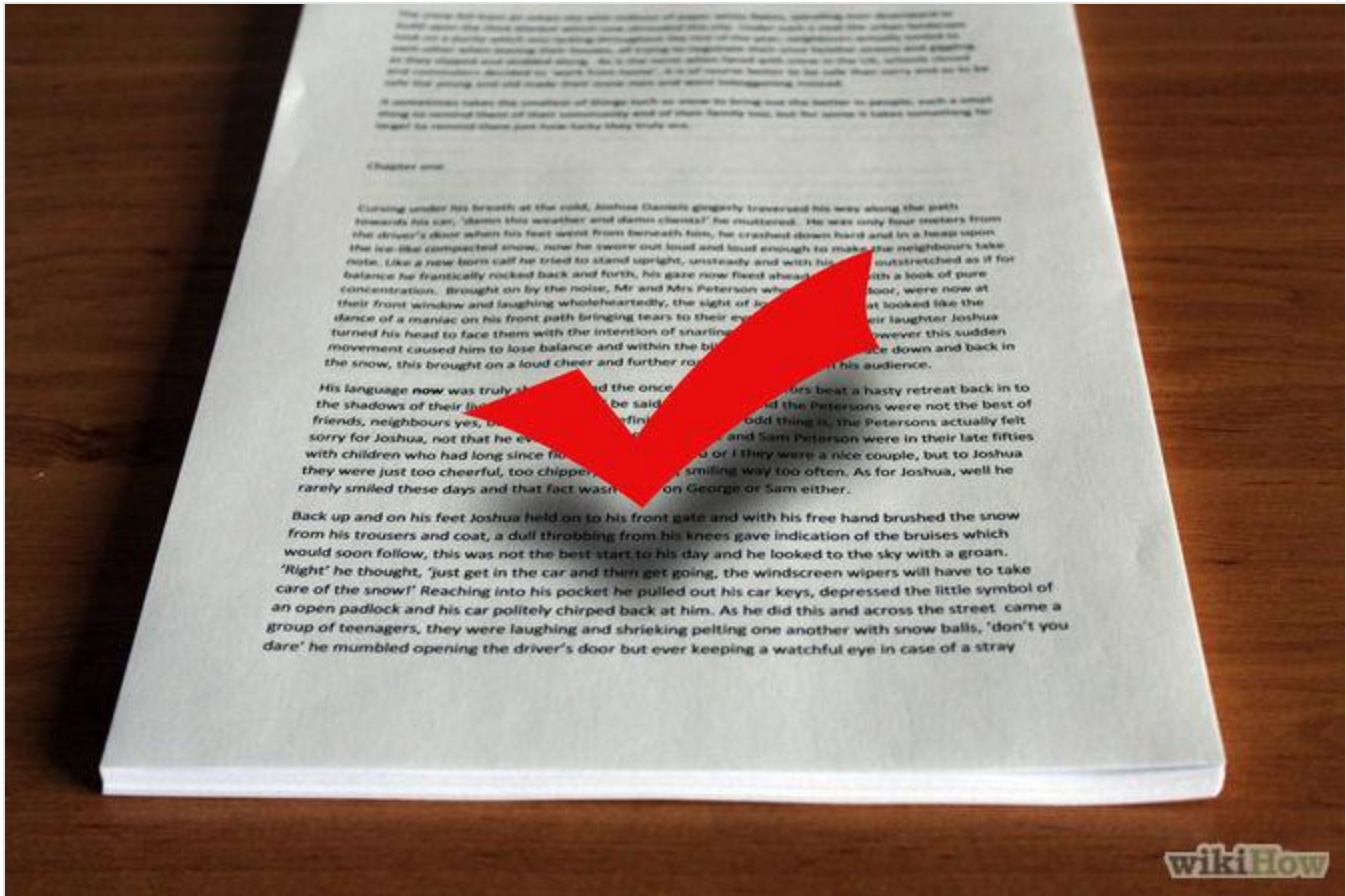
Avoid offending people. While some people might be put off by the satire you write, you never want to exhibit bad taste. Do not purposely inflame religious, racial or social tensions.



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Spend time editing your work. Re-read it to make sure it makes sense, is written well and accomplishes the goal you set out to accomplish.



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Publish your satire.

- Submit what you have written to blogs such as Check Please! as well as newspapers, magazines and other online and print publications that cover current events.



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Study good satire about current events. For example, The Daily Show put together a Rally to Restore Sanity and The Colbert Report responded with a Rally to Keep Fear Alive in 2010 in response to Glenn Beck's Rally to Restore Honor.



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Read satire daily. The Huffington Post, an online newspaper that posts blogs, videos and stories publishes a daily Comedy page which includes satirical pieces.