

Satire

Satire – a type of writing that ridicules the shortcomings of people and institutions in an attempt to bring about change.

- Satire often tries to persuade the reader to do or believe something by showing the opposite view as absurd or – even more forcefully – vicious and inhumane.
- While satire intends to be humorous, its ultimate goal is usually a serious one. Satire has been used to call attention to dangerous living conditions, hypocritical public figures and business leaders' illegal actions. A good satire makes its audience laugh and causes them to reconsider an issue.

Satire can use the following techniques:

Exaggeration (hyperbole) – a figure of speech that uses exaggeration to express strong emotion or create a comic effect; overstatement; making something greater than it actually is in order to reveal/emphasize a truth.

Understatement – a figure of speech that consists of saying less than what is really meant or saying something with less force than is appropriate. [ex. You win the lottery and say, "it's just pocket change."]

Irony – contrast between reality and expectation.

Parody -- an imitation of a style

Caricature – an exaggeration of a person's peculiar features or style