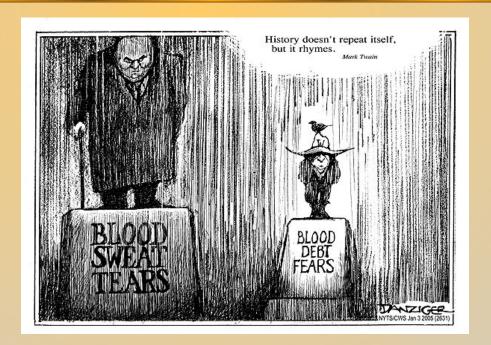
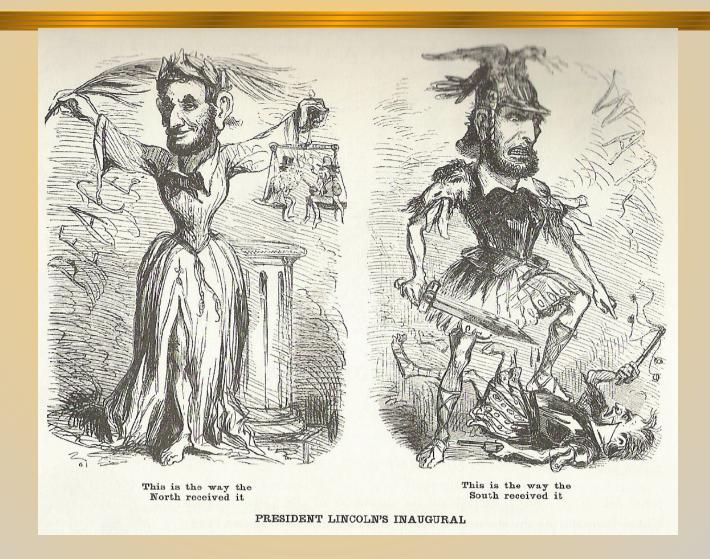


SATIRE INTRODUCTION

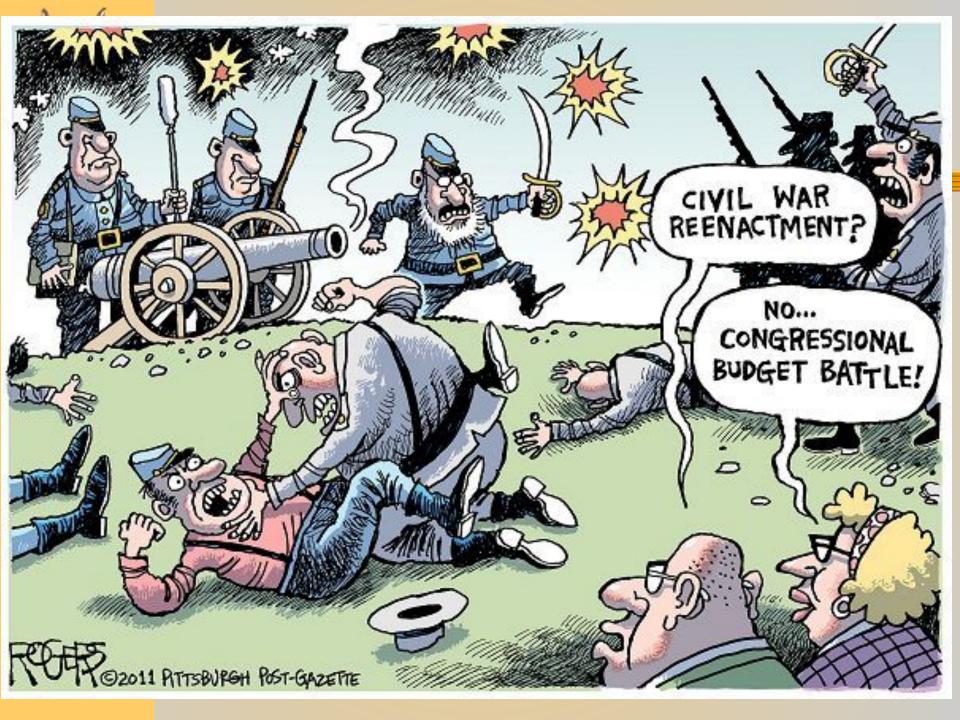




Thomas Nast









SATIRE DEFINITION...

- * exposes, ridicules, and denounces folly, evil, and stupidity as these qualities manifest themselves in persons, ideas, customs, institutions, or beliefs;
- * calls attention to those things believed to be repulsive, despicable, or destructive



SATIRICAL TYPES

Two Types: (depends on author's intent)

★ Juvenalian: harsh, bitter, contemptuous; it points with contempt and moral indignation to the corruption and evil of men and institutions; Jonathan Swift

★ Horatian: gentle, amusing, urbane; it aims to correct by gentle and broadly sympathetic laughter; Daily Show, Monty Python









SATIRICAL MODES

★ Direct satire — writer's use of a first-person voice to comment on people and happenings

★ Indirect satire — usually involves a plot or story in which a case of characters' comment implicitly or explicitly on a state of affairs (Fight Club, Mean Girls)



READER AND THE AUDIENCE

- * The reader needs to identify the satirist's purpose and tone. Its subtlety sometimes makes satire a difficult mode to detect and to understand.
- * The audience, as well as the times, also affect the satirist's work. If the audience is hostile, the writer must veil his theme; if the audience is indifferent, he must jolt them with bitter and reviling language if he desires change. If he does not fear reprisals, the satirist may take any tone he pleases.





"Hang, curs, hang! " " " " Their complexion is perfect gallows. Stand fast, good fate, to their hanging! " " " " If they be not born to be hanged, our case is miserable."



Satire on the AP Test

2005 Rhetorical Analysis: Article from The Onion

2010 Argument Essay:

In his 2004 book, Status Anxiety, Alain de Botton argues that the chief aim of humorists is not merely to entertain but "to convey with impunity messages that might be dangerous or impossible to state directly." Because society allows humorists to say things that other people cannot or will not say, de Botton sees humorists as serving a vital function in society.

Think about the implications of de Botton's view of the role of humorists (cartoonists, stand-up comics, satirical writers, hosts of television programs, etc.). Then write an essay that defends, challenges, or qualifies de Botton's claim about the vital role of humorists. Use specific, appropriate evidence to develop your position.