

HOW TO WRITE A PROPOSAL

1. Introduce and explain the problem
2. Identify possible solutions and consider pros and cons
3. Propose your solution and explain why it's the best
4. Make a call for action

MORE TIPS

- You must establish a problem that is serious enough to need a solution
 - Choose one you can solve
- Be ready to answer questions that people may have
- It should be a well-rounded proposals, including advantages and disadvantages of proposal
- The goal is to persuade people to take action

#2: Summary of A Modest Proposal -- Brodrik, Chen, Hendron

In A Modest Proposal, Jonathan Swift proposes that the Irish should eat their children, as it will produce several benefits. He claims that it will help with population control, making money, prevent crime, and make fashionable clothing out of the children. A main point of his argument is that children would make great livestock, and that after a year they could be used for nourishment. There is a problem with overpopulation in Ireland. It has gotten so bad that Swift often sees mothers on the streets with four or more children starving to death. The children will grow up to be beggars and thieves and simply be a strain on society. He also states that children cannot be put toward meaningful employment until they are past the age of six. Swift suggests that cannibalism could lead to an easy fix. Money would circulate in the economy with the trade of the children, benefiting the kingdom financially. It would also create a whole new culture of food and fashion. The new meat would allow for many new concoctions, from men's boots to baby brisket. All in all, would be a good choice for the kingdom as it would solve many problems.

the
Little



3.

“A Modest Proposal” does follow guidelines set in *The Seagull Handbook* through the

organization of the text. Swift (1729) does present a problem: overpopulation and lack of sustenance.

“A Modest Proposal” presents multiple solutions to the problem but mainly was focused on feeding the infants to the population to slow growth and address the food issue.

He uses a convincing argument through the extensive explanation of how eating babies will help the population survive and overcome the apparent problem.

He addressed any questions or criticisms that his audience may have by repeatedly stating that he is not dead set on his proposal, as it is satirical, and he is open to all and any suggestions that would properly address the problem at hand.

His call to action was at the end of the piece where he challenges his readers to come up with their own solution to an ever growing issue that will certainly start to impact everyone, regardless of class or status. In the closing lines, he gives the possible outcomes on society of both action and lack thereof.

4.

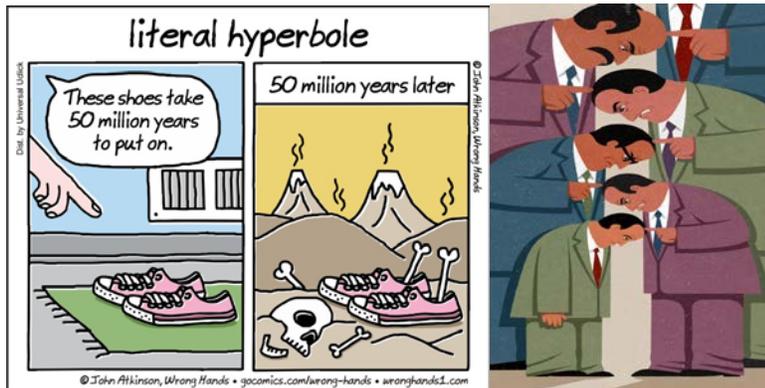
Satire: the use of humor, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose and criticize people/cultural ideas

Hyperbole: exaggerated statements/claims not meant to be taken literally

Examples:

The Napsters know everything.

My Train-O said my brain was the size of a pea.





5. Global Trends (1729)

Reformation

- Jonathan Swift resents Papists (Catholics)
- Ireland dominantly Protestant country.

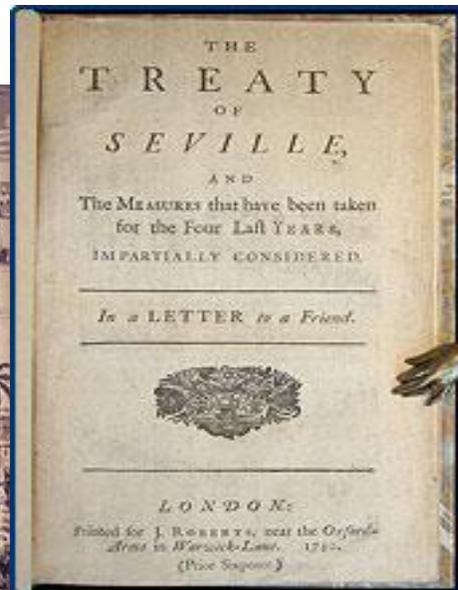


- Age of Enlightenment:** rise of concepts such as reason, liberty, and the scientific method
- skeptical of religion (especially the Catholic Church)
 - scientific approach to solving problems



Anglo-Spanish War (1727-1729): A war between Great Britain and Spain. No victor, status returned to that before the war.

-*Treaty of Seville*: 9 November 1729, between Great Britain, France, and Spain ending the Anglo-Spanish War



6. Swift uses hyperbole and satire to address issues regarding the poor in Ireland. He sarcastically proposes that people should sell their babies. "The propagation of swine's flesh, and improvement in the art of making good bacon, so much wanted among us by the great destruction of pigs, too frequent at our tables; which are no way comparable in taste or magnificence to a well grown, fat yearly child" (Swift 1729). He argues that this will not only feed people but also help the economy. Swift claims that the best way to solve the famine is for the adults to start eating infants, as they are adding to the population and causing further famine. This relates to the differences in social class during this time. The rich are getting richer, and the poor are getting poorer. The poor have no way to protect themselves from the rich, just as the infants have no way to protect themselves from getting eaten. The wealthy class is basically "eating" the poor class, causing them to suffer more. Clearly, Swift is being sarcastic with his writing, and is trying to show the wealthy class what they are doing to the poor people.

Group 7:

What is the lesson from “A Modest Proposal” that makes it relevant in 2018? In other words, why is it still being taught?

“A Modest Proposal” focuses on the suffering faced by the Irish in the late 19th century due to British rule. Swift illustrates his solution to the economic inequality in their governmental structure by proposing an unthinkable solution: selling the flesh of Irish infants in return for money. Swift’s satirical ideas explained within his proposal have a relevant meaning in our world today, however. That is, there needs to be more focus put on the people that are impoverished and unable to escape from their situation. Too many times today, people are given the opportunity to help others that are struggling, yet choose to neglect them and choose to worry about themselves. “Almost half the world — over three billion people — live on less than \$2.50 a day” (Shah, 2013). Poverty within our society is the single largest factor that hinders our ability to evolve. The economic struggles faced by those below the poverty line not only affect those impoverished, it affects the rest of the population as well. A problem, especially one with a magnitude as great as this, must not be put off for future generations to worry about. Instead, it is the duty of those with power today to find a solution to the ineffectiveness of our economic system.