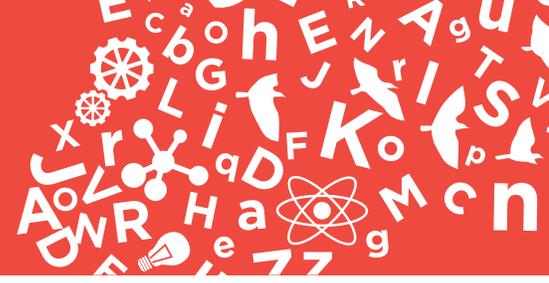


# LESSON 1: HUMOR



## HUMOR— IRONY, SATIRE, AND PARODY

A smiling reader is an engaged reader. Humor can be a useful tool in keeping our audience interested and getting across our message.

The base of humor is to do something that the audience doesn't expect.

**Irony:** The opposite of what you expect.

Irony is not always humorous. It can be tragic, or instructive, but its very definition lends itself well to the landscape of humor.

### Different types of irony:

- Verbal: Saying what one does not mean.
- Situational: The circumstance shows something unexpected.
- Dramatic: The reader or audience knows something that the character doesn't know.

Misconceptions about Irony and using it properly: Irony is all about expectation. If there is no expectation, it's not ironic!

**Parody:** Imitating the use of words, style, attitude, tone, and ideas. Usually exaggerates certain traits in a way to make them overly ridiculous.

Popular examples of parody: Song parodies like Weird Al Yankovic, Some types of sketch comedy like Sesame Street or Saturday Night Live.

**Satire:** Is meant to be instructive. It is a wider umbrella that often utilizes parody and Irony. It can be very difficult to do well. It is often seen as instructive, as a way to reveal a truth or principal. "Satire is a kind of protest, a sublimation and refinement of anger and indignation." - Literary terms and theory

**Satirical comedy:** “a form of comedy usually dramatic, whose purpose is to expose, censure and ridicule the follies, vices and short-comings of society, and of individuals who represent that society.” - Literary terms and theory.

Examples of modern satire: The Colbert Report, Mark Twain, The Onion

You don't have to make the entire article humorous, but you can use elements of humor in your writing as a way to connect with readers. Check out this Writer's Digest article for more ideas!

[writersdigest.com/online-editor/how-to-mix-humor-into-your-writing](http://writersdigest.com/online-editor/how-to-mix-humor-into-your-writing)



## CHALLENGE

Write an opening paragraph to an article that utilizes irony, parody, satire, or all three!

Email your challenge to [laurelnakai@gmail.com](mailto:laurelnakai@gmail.com) by Sept 19