

Horatian Satire Assignment

Write a satire about something to do with Dickinson in the style of Horace. It should be in verse, but need not rhyme. It should take about 5 minutes to recite.

Step I: In a written **plan** (see worksheet below) choose your:

Subject: What is a group/person/product/behavior/problem that would like to focus on? Pick something that actually matters to you.

Format: Choose your format from one of those used in Book 1 of Horace's satires. For example, it could be an open letter addressed to a friend (as in 1.1), a general reflection on a topic (like 1.2 or 1.3), a personal experience (like 1.9), a journey like 1.5, an anecdote about an event you heard about (like 1.7), or even a reflection on how to write satire (like 1.4 or 1.10).

Persona and tone: What sort of person will be speaking? How will you make the tone of the discussion Horatian? What are some passages in Horace that might be somewhat analogous (give line numbers)

Step III: Write an **explanation**, telling what Horatian techniques you intend to use, and analyzing at least two passages that were inspirational to you. This should be about 500–750 words.

What Horatian satiric techniques do you plan to use? Give similar examples from Horace, describing the passages and citing poem and line numbers.

What Horatian passages were inspirational to you and why? Give examples, describing the passages and citing poem and line numbers.

Step II: Write the **satire** and deliver it in class on the due date.

Satire Plan

SUBJECT. What are you planning to satirize? It could be a person, place, idea, behavior, social structure, group, etc. Describe it in as much detail as you can.

What do you want people to think about/realize when they hear your satire? What ideas or attitudes would you like to change, if any? This might be relatively insignificant (“I want people to repudiate pumpkin spice flavoring”) or very significant (“I want the college to take sexual assault seriously”)

FORMAT. What will be the format, and what is its closest Horatian analogy?

PERSONA AND TONE. What sort of person will be speaking? Give some details about this person.

How will you make the tone of the discussion Horatian? What sort of Horatian techniques do you plan to use?

What are some passages in Horace that might be somewhat analogous (give poem and line numbers)?

Satire Rubric

Grammar and mechanics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • few errors if any • mistakes do not detract from clarity 	/10
Subject <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • can be clearly identified • logically presented • mockery is appropriate and clear 	/10
Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • logical, clear focus • flows well, ideas linked clearly 	/10
Persona <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • made clear through manner of speaking and other details • effective for the subject matter 	/15
Satiric Techniques <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • various Horatian techniques used • well discussed in explanation • well executed in satire 	/15
Effectiveness of satire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • humorous or witty • not overly offensive • Horatian in overall effect 	/15
Planning sheet completed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • thorough answers • evidence of strong pre-writing 	/10
Understanding of Horace in Explanation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • apt parallels chosen • passages well understood 	/15
Total Score	/100