**Satirical Techniques Definitions**

Use the following techniques to make a comment or criticism about a particular subject or character:

**Exaggeration**

To enlarge, increase, or represent something beyond normal bounds so that it becomes ridiculous and its faults can be seen. *Caricature* is the exaggeration of a physical feature or trait. Cartoons, especially political cartoons, provide extensive examples of caricature. *Burlesque* is the ridiculous exaggeration of language. For instance, when a character who should use formal, intelligent language speaks like a fool or a character who is portrayed as uneducated uses highly sophisticated, intelligent language.

**Incongruity**

To present things that are out of place or are absurd in relation to their surroundings. Particular techniques include oxymoron, metaphor, and irony.

**Parody**

To imitate the techniques and/or style of some person, place, or thing in order to ridicule the original. For parody to be successful, the reader must know the original text that is being ridiculed.

**Reversal**

To present the opposite of the normal order. Reversal can focus on the order of events, such as serving dessert before the main dish or having breakfast for dinner. Additionally, reversal can focus on hierarchical order—for instance, when a young child makes all the decisions for a family or when an administrative assistant dictates what the company president decides and does.