



A Modest Proposal

2017-18

Required Summer Reading with Assignments

English III/IV, Honors

Mrs. Bush

Learning to create an argument with strong reasoning is a skill that you will use for your lifetime. Aristotle identified the elements of persuasion as *ethos, pathos and logos*. Ethos is the credibility that you have as an author and the credibility of your sources. Using sources that are credible will go a long way in persuading your audience to believe your argument. Pathos is when you use emotion to appeal to your audience. You find an area that is close to the heart of the audience and use that as an argument tool. Logos is the logic of your reasoning. It uses solid facts and statistics to derive your arguments. You probably use these in your “discussions” with your parents, siblings or friends already. We will be sharpening your skills for arguing your point.

Jonathan Swift was an Irish author and satirist that lived in the mid to late 1600’s. His most famous work was *Gulliver’s Travels*. He wrote articles and stories that were a commentary on the government and social situations of his time period using his skill as a satirist. Satire is the use of irony, sarcasm or ridicule to expose vice or folly. It is often used to effect political or social change, or prevent it.

Now it is your turn to be a satirist. What are some major problems that we have in today’s society. Create an absurd, way out there solution to the problem but use effective arguments using ethos, pathos and logos. You can make up experts and their credentials, crazy statistics and extreme examples. Swift uses this complex manner to confuse the reader as to whether he is serious or not.

Your assignment must be 1-2 pages submitted on the eLC (double spaced and in 12 font New Times Roman). Your essay should contain the following elements; an introduction paragraph, at least 3 arguments using *ethos, pathos and logos*, and a conclusion paragraph. You should be somewhat familiar with your subject prior to writing your satire.

You may choose from the topics below:

Global Warming

Healthcare

Political parties

National Debt

Gangs

Texting

The Lottery