

## A [Modern] Modest Proposal

**Assignment:** After reading Jonathan Swift's "A Modest Proposal," write your own half-serious satirical solution to a problem in modern American society.

**Some specifics:** Your product should have a structure similar to Swift's essay and should contain a similarly sarcastic tone.

**Objective:** To create your own Modern Modest Proposal, ala Swift.

1. Choose a social institution or problem that you could write a satirical essay about. Your problem should be something that impacts our nation's society as a whole or something that applies to just a smaller community such as the town or the school. Some suggestions include politics, school, fashion, relationships, or religion; however, you should narrow your topic to something very specific, like overpopulation. **Be careful about the topic you select and your manners. State the problem in the first paragraph.**
2. Come up with **an outrageous solution** to your problem. Much like Swift's suggestion that we eat babies to solve the problem of starving children, you must come up with a suggestion that is over the top and totally impractical, but treat it as the most rational solution ever.
3. Remember how Swift outlines or enumerates the advantages to his solution of eating babies? **Include an enumerated list of at least three advantages to your solution and explain them.**
4. Remember how Swift brought up good solutions but insisted that they would not work? **Include two to three realistic solutions** to your problem that could work in the real world. You want to call attention to a problem you want to be solved, so without realistic solutions, your essay is pointless. However, in the essay, you will be treating these *good* solutions as *weak* or *ridiculous* solutions.
5. You can use the following outline to help you write your proposal. You may feel free to add additional paragraphs where appropriate, but **your proposal should follow the basic model below:**

**Modest Proposal/ Satirical Essay Rubric**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Category	Excellent (30-45 points)	Good (16-29 points)	Developing (0-15 points)
<b>Problem and Satirical Solution</b>	Satirical essay <b>clearly</b> defines problem with a sense of <b>urgency</b> at the beginning of the essay and then provides a <b>logical and outrageous, satirical</b> solution to the problem.	Satirical essay begins by stating the problem and then provides a solution, but the satirical solution <b>may not be as creative or logically connected</b> to the problem at hand.	Satirical essay begins by mentioning a problem, but the problem is either <b>too vague/ not narrowed</b> for argumentation OR the solution to the problem is <b>not satirical in nature—literal instead</b> .
<b>Advantages to the Satirical Solution &amp; Realistic Solutions</b>	The essay outlines and explains <b>three advantages</b> to the satirical solution that are <b>logical consequences</b> of the satirical solution. The essay also contains at least <b>two realistic solutions</b> that could be literally used to solve the problem, but the writer <b>denounces</b> these in the name of satire—all in an effective way.	The essay outlines and explains three advantages to the satirical solution, but the explanations may <b>lack in thoroughness or logical connection</b> to the satirical solution. The essay also contains at least <b>two realistic solutions, but they may not be dismissed as ridiculous</b> to meet the purpose of the satirical essay.	The essay may <b>NOT</b> include either all <b>three required advantages or two realistic solutions</b> , OR the advantages realistic solutions <b>may not fit</b> the satirical solution at all.
Category	Excellent (8-10 points)	Good (4-7 points)	Developing (0-3 points)
<b>Grammar/Editing/</b>	The satirical essay contains <b>little to no</b> grammar/editing errors, no sentence construction errors, and no spelling errors. The essay has been <b>thoroughly edited and revised</b> .	The satirical essay contains <b>few</b> grammar/editing errors, maybe one sentence construction error, and no spelling errors. The essay shows evidence of editing, but <b>may lack in overall thoroughness</b> .	The satirical essay contains <b>major</b> grammar/editing errors, sentence construction errors, or spelling errors—lack of editing is <b>obvious</b> .

**TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_ / 100**

# Outline- Modest Proposal

## **Paragraph 1: Statement of problem**

- **Who** does it affect?
  - **What's** the issue?
  - **When** and **where** is it happening?
  - **Why** is it happening?
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## **Paragraphs 2 and 3: Outrageous/ Satirical Solution to the problem**

- What is the solution?
  - How will it work?
  - Why will it work?
  - **List and EXPLAIN at least 3 advantages** to the problem using enumeration
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## **Paragraph 4: Realistic Solutions**

- What is being done, will be done, or could be done in real life to solve the problem?
  - **Give 2 to 3 realistic solutions** BUT discount their credibility- explain why they will NOT work. **Your goal is to simultaneously denounce these realistic options while secretly hoping people will take them into consideration as real life solutions**—especially now that you have the reader's attention!
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## **Paragraph 5: Conclusion**

- **Restate the problem and solution**
  - Summarize why it's logical
  - Connect to the reader
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