

Satire

1 : a literary work holding up human vices and follies to ridicule or scorn

2 : trenchant wit, irony, or sarcasm used to expose and discredit vice or folly (Webster)

A text or performance that uses irony, derision, or wit to expose or attack human vice, folly, foolishness, or stupidity.

In satire, human or individual vices, follies, abuses, or shortcomings are held up to censure by means of ridicule, derision, burlesque, irony, or other methods, ideally with the intent to bring about improvement.^[1] Although satire is usually meant to be funny, the purpose of satire is not primarily humour in itself so much as an attack on something of which the author strongly disapproves, using the weapon of wit.

A very common, almost defining feature of satire is its strong vein of irony or sarcasm, but parody, burlesque, exaggeration, juxtaposition, comparison, analogy, and double entendre are all frequently used in satirical speech and writing. (Wikipedia)



Additional Examples of Satire in Pop Culture

	Subject of the Satire	Comment or Criticism Being Made
<i>Saturday Night Live's Weekend Update</i> <i>The Daily Show</i>	Television news	Identification of human flaws and vices related to politics, entertainment, and current events.
<i>Scary Movie</i>	Horror movies	Exaggerates the techniques used by horror movies to scare audiences.
<i>Austin Powers</i>	1960's spy movies	Sexism towards women. Ridicules escapes by the spy and stupidity of the evil villain.
Political cartoons	Politicians and political issues	The policy decisions and personality traits of elected officials can be flawed.
<i>This is Spinal Tap</i>	Rockumentaries	The excess of modern musicians.
Songs by Weird Al Yankovich	musicians and music videos	The excess of modern musicians. Simplicity and immaturity of the lyrics in modern music.