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| NYC College of Technology, CUNY  **Play Analysis** | Prof. Christopher Swift  **Classroom Assignment** |

**SATIRE**

As a class, create a list on the board of contemporary issues in your world that are annoying, unfair, or unbearably stupid (politics, politics, commercialism, professional sports, war, global warming, the NYC MTA, education, technology, etc.).

Form groups of 3. Students in each group all agree about the uselessness, inanity, and/or wickedness of a particular issue.

Working in your group:

1. Make a list of the most irritating or awful aspects of the issue. Think in the finest details!
2. Together, decide about the best means of attacking the issue (or people) in a monologue form.
   1. Who is the character speaking the monologue? Someone who functions as an insider or a naïve passerby? There are an infinite number of voices you could choose from. Record your choice on paper, describing this person (fictional, nonfictional, age, position in society, etc.)
   2. Decide who the character is speaking to… the audience, or another person on stage? Explain your idea in writing.
   3. Choose a rhetorical strategy to employ in the monologue: irony, hyperbole, understatement, stupidity, a ridiculous situation, an oversimplification of a complex issue, juxtaposition of the trivial and tragic? Explain your technique in writing. What will the shape of the monologue look like?
3. Write the first few lines of the monologue and include your names at the top of the page.
4. Share your ideas with the class.

Remember: your job is to expose what is annoying, unfair, or unbearably stupid about an issue. Satire is never straightforward; it is ironic, which means that the monologue might be endorsing the exact opposite of what you believe. However, by the end it should be clear that you actually disagree with the current state of the issue.