It’s time for you to be the satirist. First, think of a major problem in modern society (It can be a domestic or international struggle) or more specifically this school. Then create an absurd solution but effectively argue that solution with logical and emotional appeal. Don’t be afraid to experiment with so-called experts, fantastic statistics and confusing syllogism (when you come to a conclusion from two different sources). In fact, a strategy you may want to use is to confuse the reader with absurd complexity. Try to include the strategies of satire: exaggeration/hyperbole, overstatement, understatement, irony.

In at least one page, introduce the problem and offer a ridiculous solution. Remember to include pathos (evoking a feeling of pity or compassion) when you introduce the problem in order to express the necessity for an immediate solution. Some possible topics to consider are: immigration, health care, war in Iraq, taxes, the economy, etc. You are by no means limited to the suggested topics.

In the end, I will be examining how well you argue your ridiculous solution. The best essay will have an incredibly absurd solution while also offering a highly effective rationale.

WARNING: Be aware of your environment. And yes, I realize the irony of this request. While this assignment does ask you to play with satire, to poke fun, you MUST WORK WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE “HIGH SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT”. Don’t choose something that would too personally affect any one person in the room or be considered “out of line”. Criticize policies, not people. Please do not force my hand – should you “push the envelope,” your actions will have administrative consequences.

NEED HELP GETTING STARTED? Remember that you are going to write about an opinion you have, but you are going to write about it in an effort to “solve” it with ridiculous solutions.

1. Think of a problem in today’s society and explain why it TRULY bothers you.
2. Using your best guess, explain WHY this problem exists (preferably more than one reason).
3. Describe the populations affected most by this problem (race/ethnicity, age, gender, religion, other).
4. List more than one ridiculous solution that would “solve” the problem. You can also imitate Swift by making the “solutions” solve other problems in society.
5. You may also want to list benefits of solving this problem and then REVERSE those benefits (In other words, you will actually be writing about CONS). For instance if a benefit is “Less congestion during rush hour,” turn it around to say “More congestion during rush hour.”
6. Title your piece effectively.

GRADING RUBRIC:

1. Requirements (at least one page) (10 points)
2. An effective title (10 points)
3. Proposal: Your proposal is clear. (10 points)
4. Solutions: You have posed more than one ridiculous solution with an effective rationale. (20 points)