



ELA Virtual Learning

English IV

April 15, 2020



Lesson: Wednesday, April 15

Objective/Learning Target:

1. Analyze a text in which the author's point of view is unclear, requiring further analysis.
2. Produce clear and coherent writing.

Quickwrite: 4/15/2020

Take a look at the cartoon on the following page. On a separate sheet of paper or Google Doc, respond briefly to the following prompt:

What is the author attempting to communicate with this cartoon? Why do you think so?

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New Information

The cartoon you just examined is probably a lot like other cartoons you have seen. The artist was certainly trying to make a point, but that point isn't always that easy to see right away. In this sense, this cartoon and others like it are excellent examples of [satire](#).

Artists and writers often use satire to alert us to certain problems with individuals or society, but satire allows humor to carry these messages to a wider audience.

How did you reach your conclusions about the cartoon before? Are there other ways that we can tell what an author's point is in satirical pieces? These are both important questions to keep in mind as we move forward.

Written Example: “Weighed Down By Too Much Cash? Don’t Worry, I’m Here to Help” by Rick Reilly

Read over [this short article from ESPN by Rick Reilly](#). As you read, consider again the following questions:

1. What problem(s) is Reilly trying to make us aware of in this article?
2. What specific techniques of Reilly’s allow us to see the intended message of this piece?

Guided Practice

Now that you've read the ESPN article, respond to the following prompt on a separate sheet of paper or a Google Doc:

What problem(s) is Reilly trying to make us aware of in this article, and why do you think so? Use passages from the article or your own inferences and research in your response.

Guided Practice: Answer Key

The following would be a valid response to the prompt on the previous page:

In this article Reilly appears to be trying to alert us to the fact that the NBA (and perhaps the world of professional sports as a whole) often entices young, talented athletes with lucrative contracts while not helping to instill in them any sense of responsible money management. Further, Reilly seems to be claiming that this represents willful negligence on the part of athletic executives and promoters. For example, Reilly's fourth piece of "advice" to young athletes is that they "buy a jet." In this passage it is clear that Reilly is being sarcastic, because there are very few realistic instances in which a private jet would be considered a necessary expense.

Additional Resources

The New Yorker maintains [a weekly satire section](#) in its magazine. Take a few moments to browse through their most recent postings, and see if you can tell what these authors and artists are suggesting about individuals and/or society (particularly the references to *Tiger King* for you Netflix aficionados out there).