



**Social Studies Virtual Learning**

# **Contemporary Issues**

# **Comedy**

**May 8, 2020**

Contemporary Issues  
Lesson #35: May 8, 2020

**Objective/Learning Target: I can evaluate the role of comedy during COVID-19.**

**HAPPY FRIDAY**



When you rewatch Fresh Prince of Bel-Air and see the scene that became a meme.



# Warm Up

During COVID-19, many live TV shows have had to adapt to being quarantined and film from home. Saturday Night Live is one example that has gone to filming from home. Watch the following parody video featuring Brad Pitt as Dr. Anthony Fauci.

1. Why would this video resonate with Americans quarantined?
2. How is Brad Pitt portraying Dr. Anthony Fauci?
3. How can comedy help people through stay-at-home orders?



# Warm Up Answers

1. Why would this video resonate with Americans quarantined?
  - a. Everyone knows who he is and sees him speaking all the time on COVID-19
2. How is Brad Pitt portraying Dr. Anthony Fauci?
  - a. Correcting President Trump and explaining COVID-19 with facts
3. How can comedy help people through stay-at-home orders?
  - a. Escape from news reports, connect with others





## Lesson Activity

TV and other forms of media have become lifelines for those stuck at home. The question becomes: How can you bring happiness and laughter to people during a time of crisis? We have already discussed SNL and their satirical portrayal of Dr. Anthony Fauci, but what about other TV shows? Recently, classic TV shows have held virtual reunions to connect with each other and fans.

**GERMS ARE IN THE AIR**



**When you normally spend all your time at home anyway but now the government says you have to**



# Practice

Review the articles detailing virtual TV show reunions. As you read and watch videos attached in the articles, think about how these Zoom reunions could impact our society. Write a paragraph (5-7 sentences) detailing how a return to popular television shows could help the mental health of people during COVID-19.

## *Fresh Prince*

<https://www.yahoo.com/entertainment/fresh-prince-reunion-smith-cast-125846686.html>

## *The Office, Hamilton, Goonies*

<https://www.vanityfair.com/hollywood/2020/04/zoom-tv-movie-cast-reunions>

## *Parks and Rec*

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/30/entertainment/a-parks-and-recreation-special-recap/index.html>

# Reflection

With Illinois announcing that their stay-at-home order will continue until June 1st, Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot has been using social media and comedy to interact with citizens. After watching her viral video and looking at memes people have produced of her (which she approves and think are funny), reflect on the following questions.

1. How can going viral by using comedy during quarantine help spread the “stay-at-home” message?
2. Brainstorm how this strategy could help/hurt future re-election campaigns.



<https://do312.com/p/our-favorite-mayor-lightfoot-stay-home-memes>