

Kosta Vujic
Mr. Greco
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Humorist Study

Analysis: The two comedians that I chose to analyze for my humorist study project are Key & Peele and Matt Rife. Key & Peele is a duo who make short funny skits on youtube usually about a certain topic that many people can relate to. Matt Rife, on the other hand, is a stand-up comedian who usually interacts with his audience and either roasts them or talks about a current issue in the world.

Key & Peele mainly uses Satire and Situational Humor in their skits to make the audience laugh and poke fun at the absurd situation. For example, they have a skit in which the main character Key gets asked if he wants to donate a dollar to save a kid by Peele. This is commonly done in grocery stores in real life to help support a charity so many people can relate. However, when Key donates 5 dollars Peele calls a van that literally delivers 5 children. This is a mix of satire, absurd humor, and situational humor. It shows satire because it is making fun of the donation system and how it doesn't actually save children. This also shows absurd humor because it is absurd that a guy who donates 5 dollars actually saves 5 children from being kidnapped. Lastly, it shows situational humor because most people can relate to being asked if they want to donate money to save children. So when the donated money actually saves children it pokes fun at that interaction.

Matt Rife is a stand-up comedian who usually interacts with his audience and pokes fun at them, even roasting them sometimes. He also talks about political issues and current topics that people can relate to. With his interactions with the crowd, there are some backlashes in which the crowd gets mad and they have a fight. In his stand-up comedy, he uses anecdotes, banter with the crowd, black humor, and often uses a Freudian slip. In the video that I watched, he started by interacting with the crowd and saw it was a women's birthday. He would then proceed to ask her how old she was turning and when she said 50, he would make fun of her and say almost done. Later on in the show, he would use an anecdote where he explained his dating experience in LA and how it has through him all the red flags he needs to look out for. In this story he made fun of his past dates and how his friends reacted to his past dates.

Both of the comedians use relatable topics that their audience can connect with and understand the humor behind them. They also both use situational humor because of the related topics they share with the audience. However, they differ because Key & Peele create premade videos about a certain topic so they use more absurd humor. This humor is already written out and the skit is created with outfits, set design, and extras who all support their skit. Matt Rife, on the other hand, does stand-up comedy so he uses more anecdotes and interacts with the audience which Key & Peele are unable to do. This creates a new pathway for his humor that connects with the audience more in some.

Reflection:

For my project, I am still trying to decide whether to do a skit like Key & Peele or a stand-up comedy like Matt Rife. Both humorists have their own techniques that I found very interesting and inspiring for myself. On one hand, you have skits that poke fun at common situations that most people know about or have found themselves in. On the other hand, Matt Rife is a stand-up comedian who interacts with his crowd and uses anecdotes in order to express his humor.

The most interesting humor technique from Key & Peele is their absurd humor which always makes me laugh. All of their skits go above and beyond with absurdness which is something I want to incorporate in my humor project. Their skits also always relate to a topic that almost everyone can relate to. That might be a Hell's Kitchen parody, Airline customer support, Pawnshop interaction, and so on. In these skits, the humor is shown with their acting as well which supports their absurd humor. If I do a skit like them, I will try and make sure to act the part and really try to personify the humor through my acting. Even in their super absurd humor, they don't become cringy or annoying to watch which is another tool I would like to use.

My favorite humor technique that Matt Rife uses is his interaction with his audience along with his use of anecdotes. If I chose to do a stand-up act I would like to think of a topic that I can use multiple anecdotes from my life in order to portray humor through that topic. I hope that these anecdotes will make the audience laugh along with engaging them with my stand more. With this increased engagement I can interact with them more easily than if they are not interested. My interaction with the audience shouldn't be forced and it should come naturally like Rife. Rife has learned when the right time is to start an interaction with the audience which creates the interaction much more comedic. When he interacts with the crowd he usually uses banter. I hope I can incorporate some banter into my interaction with the crowd.

Both humorist have their own styles which they personify through their comedic expression. I hope to combine both of their unique styles in creating my project. I hope to use the absurd humor inspired by Key & Peele along with the anecdotes that Matt Rife uses in order to create my humor project. I hope to use the funny stories from my life and turn them into effective anecdotes that will help my humor project. Humor has been a part of my life from when I was laughing as a baby to today where I am laughing with my friends. I want to continue to use humor in my everyday life and I enjoy different types of humor which I research in this project. In this project, I want to show my humor style along with my spin on other people's styles like Key & Peele and Matt Rife.

Part 2 – Description of Proposed Project

Provide a detailed description of your project, including what you intend to develop (the form of humor, topic/content, techniques you plan to use, how many people you'll need to deliver the performance, visual aids/props, time, and any other details that will help to give me a picture of what you're planning to create. *This section is worth 25% of the grade for this assignment.*

1.) Are you collaborating with others? Yes or **No**

2.) Which form of humor are you planning to develop? (See [menu](#).)

Stand-up

3.) What is the subject (or, in the case of satire, the target)? Why did you choose this subject?

High school because my audience is a bunch of high schoolers so I think it will be easy to find common topics they can relate to. Also, the humor is going to be more shared if it's something we all know.

4.) Which comedic [tools/techniques](#) do you plan to use, and why? (List at least 3 main ones and explain briefly how you plan to use them):

I plan to use anecdotes by bringing them up during my stand-up act in order to add more humor and introduce different topics. For my overarching topic which is going to be high school, I hope to use stories from high school that are funny and will make the audience laugh. I also plan to use Situational Humor by talking about situations that we can all relate to as highschooler. These situations will likely be funny and something I can also criticize. Lastly, I want to use Absurd Humor in order to connect it to Situation humor and combine those two and make absurd jokes about Situations that everyone can relate to

5.) Why do you think this is the right humor project for you? (If you have a group, can you assure me that everyone is invested in this idea and you won't have trouble getting everyone to contribute meaningfully?) What makes you excited about this idea? What are some potential pitfalls you wish to avoid?

I think this is the right humor project for me because I want to push myself to do something I am not usually comfortable with. I am a pretty reserved person and I get nervous speaking in front of a crowd. However, I think that is an important skill to have so for my last project of this year I want to do something that's going to push me out of my comfort zone. I am also excited to do stand-up and have fun and laugh, but I'm scared that my jokes are going to be stupid and fail. To prevent this from happening I will try and practice my jokes ahead of time and make sure they are actually funny.

6.) If you get approval, what's your next step?

If I get approval my next step would be to start and write the script. I would also like to start thinking about stories and jokes I can tell in my stand-up act.