

Between Two Ferns with Zach Galifianakis is the first humorist I want to focus on. This comedy show is made up of short five to ten-minute interviews with various celebrities, politicians, and public figures. This show started in 2008 through a network called Funny or Die. It got lots of traction from the start but as time went on and people found that they could see their favorite celebrity in a different interview setting, it skyrocketed in popularity. This overall led to its creation into a whole movie on Netflix in 2019. The interview uses satire in which he criticizes his guests, himself, and/or different pop culture or political subjects. This can also be seen as a form of repartee, often the interview questions can be mean, demeaning, or offensive but the guest throws these types of questions and responses back at him. What makes these so entertaining is the fast-paced nature of the dialogue but not only the perfectly timed awkward silences or expressions. All of this pieced together allows for each interview regardless of the guest or subject to be enjoyable for any audience. What I found from watching many of these interviews was that even with celebrities I didn't know or didn't care for, I still found it extremely engaging. For example, Keanu Reeves came on the show and I did not know much about him, his work, or the pop culture references around him. Yet, the nature that Galifianakis goes about these interview questions, regardless of your knowledge of these subjects you can feel the awkwardness, and tension and can read these questions and banter as entertaining and funny. Truly what makes this show stand out so much is not the banter or offensive lines but really the variability of each of the episodes. Watching one with Hailee Steinfeld is so drastically different than the one with President Barack Obama. One takes jabs about appearances, movies, music, and pop culture and the other focuses on more serious topics like healthcare, politics, and race. However, they both land very well and use the same techniques of repartee and satire to make them so enjoyable.

The next humorist I am looking at is Saturday Night Live also known as SNL. SNL does skit-based forms of humor but often focuses on political issues which add a satirical element to their work. They also invite popular celebrities on the show to add an extra element of humor as we see the celebrities that we know and love in a different element. The show always starts off with the "host", which is the celebrity they have invited on the show, doing a monologue that is often self-deprecating or makes references to pop culture surrounding them. SNL has been on air since 1975 so their cast has shifted and expanded largely over time. This show has numerous segments beyond the skits such as a "news" section in which they make commentary on more serious subjects and add their own input/opinions through satire. Their skits always switch up from covering topics like American Girl dolls if they were real and sharing their historical background, however, this leads to them describing pretty horrific stuff that could have happened in their historical time period. However, they don't always do more serious satirical jokes in addition to this they often make skits that focus on more crude humor, and bizarre situations a person could find themselves in pushed to the extreme.

For our project, we are focusing on a skit-based format. Considering both of the humourists I looked at, they both used pre-planned dialogue which will likely play a role in our planning process. Because our skit is centered around the Met Gala, we will have interview-style conversations within it that emulate the interviews done through things like Vogue on the red carpet. In this, I wanted to use a lot of the same ideas that Galifiankias did for *Between Two Ferns* as we will be making commentary in a more critical and repartee-like sense of the celebrities and their bizarre outfits. To do this, we will write these lines to provide tension and awkwardness through line breaks, rude comments, off-hand questions, etc.

Considering the style of *Saturday Night Live*, they have extensive sets, costumes, and makeup to accompany the acting and dialogue in their skits. These fit the topic/setting of the story and reflect the characters' place in the skit. To take inspiration from this, we will be putting our interviewer dress in a fashion similar to someone like Emma Chamberlain who has conducted the Vogue Met Gala interviews the past two years. For the actual Met Gala looks, we plan to use household items to recreate bizarrely looking outfits shown in previous Met Galas to poke fun at how these celebrities come to this highly renowned fashion gala in the ugliest, most offputting outfits that often do not fit or relate to the theme of the gala. In addition to this, we will write out and develop our different characters like *Saturday Night Live* to create these outrageous characters that are almost like caricatures.

Largely I am taking inspiration from these two humourists because I personally love to watch their shows and will do so in my own time for entertainment. I also feel that the pre-planned nature and caricature satire will lend itself better to my abilities. I am personally not a very good actor but the cool thing about portraying a caricature is that they aren't necessarily realistic and if the acting is not amazing in itself it can add an extra layer of humor. In addition, I felt that this would be a better format for me as something like stand-up comedy about this subject would first be out of my comfort zone but second it is hard to deliver the lines in a way to build such tension, awkwardness and make sure the critical points get through to the audience. *Saturday night live* is a live show and therefore is not edited but it is rehearsed and scripted prior to the show. *Between Two Ferns* it is unclear if it is rehearsed or not prior but the questions more often than not are formulated prior and the show is edited to keep the pacing and breaks to make the jokes land the best. For our humor project, we will be editing it to make it flow and land the jokes best to the audience, and will be rehearsed prior to the performance.

Overall we will be using similar humor techniques like satire, repartee, caricature, and a skit-like format which is largely inspired by these humourists.

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

*\*If Yes, list the names of your collaborators :* Yes, Nicole Leihe

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

Humor Narrative/ Skit

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

We are choosing to discuss and create humor around the Met Gala. We chose this subject because it is a recent subject but in addition to this, we have found there is a lot of humor in it. Although it is a glamorous and well established event, a lot of humor can be found in fashion itself. Often these outfits displayed are very over the top and bizarre.

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):

We plan to use caricature and hyperbole. We will do this by recreating the interviews and discussions around the outfits but making them from house-hold items showing how bizarre the outfits can be.

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 that this is a good project for me because it connects to something I find funny and allows for a more planned out approach. Something like stand-up wouldn't fit well for me however something like this which can be edited, pre-planned and well executed. I also like the idea of working with someone else to make this happen because collaboration and joking around with others allows me to expand on such jokes.

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

Our next step would be the planning process. To create ideas for the outfits we would be recreating and in addition a script to accompany this.

**Note: Once you gain approval, make a new Google Doc titled LastName\_FirstName-Humor Script, and begin drafting your own original project.** If you are doing a non-narrative/non-performance project, such as a series of political cartoons or satirical images, you will need to use this document to explain your creative choices and how you applied comedic terms and techniques to your images.