

A MODEST PROPOSAL: Annotation Guidelines

This is a challenging but accessible piece and that accessibility is made possible through careful reading and annotation. Please use the following annotation guidelines to help you digest the piece as you read. You may need to read some passages more than once.

1. Number each of the paragraphs—you should end up with 33 paragraphs.
2. Read the entire piece in its entirety. Then go back and begin annotating.
3. UNDERLINE the **speaker's** thesis...and then at the end of the essay, offer up your own interpretation of Swift's argument (these two statements should be radically different b/c Swift is using verbal irony—saying the opposite of what he really means).
4. HIGHLIGHT (different colors) examples of appeals to ethos, logos, and pathos.
5. CIRCLE any words that are unfamiliar to you—**look up their definitions** and make a note in the margins of the essay.
6. BOX any allusions. Look them up if you need to and make a note in the margins of the essay.
 - a. Remember, allusions are direct connections btw speaker and audience—you're not living in 18th century Ireland. You'll need to look them up to understand Swift's satire.
7. Chunk the essay—draw a LINE across the page each time Swift switches his type of claim (label it as either a claim of FACT, VALUE, or POLICY).
Reminders:
 - Fact Claims are statements of what we believe to be true or untrue. They are empirically verifiable. Fact claims can be substantiated by subjecting the claim to external proof.
 - Value Claims (a.k.a. judgment claims) are evaluative in nature. Value claims are normative; they state what is right or wrong, better or worse, good or bad.
 - Policy Claims advocate a specific course of action, behavior, rules, requirements, or change in policy. Policy claims include "should" or "ought to," or "need to"
8. DOUBLE UNDERLINE any word, phrase, or passage that hints at the satirical nature of this piece.
9. HIGHLIGHT (different colors) any examples of exaggeration, understatement, reversal, or incongruity that you might find. (If you run out of highlighters, you may devise a different system of identification).
 - a. See satire handout for definitions of these terms.
10. In the margins, note any switch in tone (identify it: earnest, comedic, flippant, lyrical, etc).
11. You may make any additional comments/notations that you need...