

Analyzing an Episode of The Simpsons: Sample Answers

	Satirical Subject #1: Nuclear Power	Satirical Subject #2: Political Campaigns
Example and type of satire	<p>The nuclear power plant includes numerous safety violations: Gum is used to seal crack in coolant tower. A plutonium rod is used as paperweight. A monitoring station is left with no one to monitor the activity at the reactor. Nuclear waste is shin-deep in the hallway.</p> <p>All of these violations are exaggerations of violations that might really occur in a nuclear power plant.</p>	<p>Burns' political team consists of the expected members such as a speech writer. However there is also a muckraker, character assassin, mudslinger, and garbologist.</p> <p>Political teams in the real world might engage in activities such as character assassination and these other activities, but there would not be a particular person hired to specifically do these jobs. This is an example of exaggeration.</p>
Example and type of satire	<p>Mr. Burns attempts to bribe the government inspector with thousands of dollars stuffed in briefcases and placed in a large pile in the middle of a room.</p> <p>The obvious pile of money in the room is an exaggeration.</p>	<p>There are a series of scenes where Mr. Burns is shown participating in activities politicians typically engage in while on the campaign trail.</p> <p>Burns loses control of a jackhammer at a construction site. This is an exaggeration of what politicians do. Typically a politician might participate in a groundbreaking ceremony, but using a jackhammer is excessive.</p> <p>Burns addresses an audience at a political rally with a giant poster of himself in the background. This is a parody of a similar scene from the movie <i>Citizen Kane</i>.</p>
Example and type of satire	<p>A political ad uses an actor portraying Charles Darwin and an elephant standing in a living room to argue that a three-eyed fish is an evolutionary improvement.</p> <p>This is an example of exaggeration and incongruity.</p>	<p>Burns' campaign manager tells him that the handling of the family pets, which occurred minutes before, improved Burns' rating.</p> <p>The instantaneous rise of Mr. Burns' approval rating in the election polls is exaggerated.</p>