

Name or Group Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Commonly Used Satiric Devices

| Device         | Definition  | Example   | Personal Example | Example from Swift (include line number) |
|----------------|---|---|------------------|--|
| Hyperbole      | A gross overstatement; an extreme exaggeration  | "I've told you a million times not to do that."   |                  |  |
| Invective      | Speech that may be directed toward an individual, cause, idea, or system that attacks or denounces it       | When politicians cut funding for preschool programs, it's because they really value all forms of education.   |                  |  |
| Inversion      | A reversal of order, form, or another relationship  | We know Oliver is smart because he always scores in the bottom 10 percent on his standardized tests.  |                  |  |
| Irony          | A literary device where what is stated is often the opposite of what is meant                               | "It's really unfair of me to engage you in a battle of wits when you're only half armed."   |                  |  |
| Sarcasm        | Sneering disapproval often expressed as praise; i.e., someone who falls may be praised for his gracefulness | When the nervous freshman dropped his lunch tray, the seniors at a nearby table gave him a standing ovation and yelled, "Way to go, Grace."         |                  |  |
| Satire         | Literary art form that ridicules human folly or vice hoping to correct it                                   | Saturday Night Live's Weekend Update; Swift's Gulliver's Travels, Pope's "The Rape of the Lock," Orwell's Animal Farm; editorial/political cartoons |                  | Swift's "A Modest Proposal"              |
| Understatement | Speech that deliberately minimizes a situation, often for comic effect                                      | "Let's send one bag of rice; that will help all of those starving Sudanese."  |                  |  |