

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your assignment is to complete a thorough annotation of rhetorical elements in Jonathan Swift's "A Modest Proposal." Be especially alert for:

- Tone
- Appeals to logos, ethos, pathos
- Rhetorical shifts
- Analogies
- Irony

How does the author create his fake credentials?

What is significant about Swift's diction? Can you categorize words?

What is the significance of the title? Why is it a "modest" proposal? Why not just a "proposal"?

What techniques of satire can you identify in "A Modest Proposal"?

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Some guiding questions to help you keep track of what is happening.

1. What is the definition of "modest"?
2. What is the purpose of the proposal (based on the subtitle)?
3. Describe the conditions in Ireland:
4. What is the main problem?
5. What did Swift find out about children from America?

6. According to Swift, what will the children do as adults to support themselves?

7. What are the advantages of Swift's proposal?

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

f.

8. Who would make possible objections to this proposal? Why?

9. Does Swift really think it's a good idea to eat babies? If not, what is the real purpose of this essay? What is Swift trying to change?

10. What is the tone of the proposal?