SATIRE
Swift’s work is dark and biting towards his satirical targets. **Satire** is a literary technique in which people’s behaviors or society’s institutions are ridiculed for the purpose of bringing about social reform. Swift uses satire to comment on specific political and cultural concerns that angered and offended him.

**Verbal irony** occurs when what is said is the opposite of what is meant.

Directions: In the chart, record examples of verbal irony in *A Modest Proposal*. One has been done for you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What Swift States</th>
<th>What Swift Means</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The title of the selection, “A Modest Proposal”</td>
<td>Swift’s proposal is hardly modest; it is outrageous and likely to cause horror in readers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Directions: Recall the ideas presented in Swift’s satirical essay, answering each question in one or two sentences.

1. According to Swift’s essay, why do many women in Ireland become beggars?

2. How does Swift propose to make children “sound, useful members of the commonwealth”?
3. What does Swift list as the main problem in Ireland?

4. Swift tends to describe the poor in an animalistic way. Why do you think he would use this technique?

5. What reason does Swift give for not aiming his proposal at teenagers or the elderly?

6. Swift lists several alternative proposals that are based on common sense, fairness and decency. What reasons does Swift give for refusing to discuss these alternatives?

7. Swift challenges politicians who dislike his proposal to ask the poor how they feel about it. What does Swift suggest the poor would say?

Swift uses the following persuasive techniques. Write down examples of each as you read.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Logical</th>
<th>Emotional</th>
<th>Ethical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IDENTIFY PROPOSITION AND SUPPORT

Although “A Modest Proposal” is a satire, the essay is logically organized and supported by facts and evidence. The effectiveness of a proposition depends greatly on the way it is constructed. A proposal includes:

• a clearly identified **problem**
• a **proposition**, or solution, that details the proposal’s implementation and advantages
• **support** for the proposal, including reasons, evidence, and fact
• acknowledgement of and refutation of **opposing views** or possible objections to the proposal

**Directions:** In the chart, record Swift’s proposal to the problem and give at least four examples of support for the proposal.

**Problem:**

Poor children are a burden to their parents and the country.

**Proposal:**

________________________

**Support:**

1. These children can help feed and clothe thousands.

2. 

3. 

4. 

1. How does Swift acknowledge opposing views? ________________________________

________________________

from A VINDICATION OF THE RIGHTS OF WOMAN

**COUNTERARGUMENTS**

**Argumentation** is speech or writing that expresses a position on an issue and supports it with reasons and
evidence. A good argument anticipates opposing viewpoints and provides counterarguments to refute them. Counterarguments acknowledge the argument but then provide evidence or reasons to contradict it.

**Directions:** In the chart, list the opposing views that Wollstonecraft anticipates and her counterarguments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opposing View</th>
<th>Her Counterargument</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Directions:** Recall the ideas presented in Wollstonecraft’s essay, answering each question in one or two sentences.

1. What does Wollstonecraft dislike about the way women are educated?

2. Why is there a great difference rather than equality between the sexes (lines 1-15)?

3. According to Wollstonecraft, in what way are men naturally superior to women?

4. What does Wollstonecraft mean when she says that women should become more manly, or masculine?

5. What kind of training does Wollstonecraft urge women to undertake so that they will achieve dignity and happiness instead of pity and contempt (lines 54-62)?
6. What does Wollstonecraft say will be the result when women are allowed to exercise their bodies and minds?

7. Wollstonecraft says that too many women “exercise a short-lived tyranny” but end up “slaves.” Explain.

8. In lines 132-145, what part do the concepts of “weakness” and “delicacy” play in undermining women and keeping them from gaining equality?