

AP Language Creative Response: A Modest Recipe



Prompt

If you've spent any time online looking at recipes, you've almost certainly come across a story prefacing a set of cooking instructions that reads something like this:

I was folding towels on the counter when I looked in the mirror and noticed, over my shoulder, the small white stool pushed in the corner of the bathroom. It has been, for I don't know how long, maybe as long as we've been in this house, the stool the boys use when they're brushing their teeth, or washing their hands, or filling up a cup of water to drink. That stool makes a creaking scrape of a sound as it's pulled across the floor, which is amplified by the shower tile, so, in the middle of the night, you're always notified when someone short is thirsty.

That's entirely real, by the way, and somehow manages to meander to a recipe for Celery Root Rösti with Gruyère and Eggs. While some people [love the anecdotes](#) that precede online recipes, there is a loud group of people who loathe them and who loudly [express their frustration](#) about having to wade through piles of text before getting to the cooking goods.

Since recipes are about the clever mixture of tasty ingredients, your task is to blend the argument Jonathan Swift makes in his "A Modest Proposal" with the style of one of the blogs that can, at times, appear to be as "extra" as a thing can be. I would read a few of them (they are very easy to find online) to find a style you'd like to match and mock.

Simon Dentith describes parody as "parody as 'any cultural practice which provides a relatively polemical allusive imitation of another cultural production or practice,'" so your goal in the piece is to emulate and exaggerate this style of writing to produce a humorous look at this growing cultural phenomenon.

Requirements

- Please submit a typed response that uses a legible 12-point font, 1" margins, a double-spaced body, and a simple single-spaced header.
- Your paper should be between 500 and 800 words, carefully chosen to both honor Swift's satirical aim of critiquing his society and to parody the style of writing that is found in these recipe blogs.
- Satire rests on clever, deliberate word choice and shifts of tone. Try to capture that level of precision that characterized Swift's work in "A Modest Proposal."
- An ideal response would include the prefatory text and the steps/ingredients of the recipe itself. Both areas of the piece are fruitful ground for the weapons of satire we've discussed in class. Make liberal use of hyperbole, meiosis, incongruity, and imagery—just as Swift did—to develop your parody.