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**Analysis of Satire:**

Satire is a very important genre or tool that can be illustrated in many different forms in today’s society. It is a very powerful form of art that if used effectively, can have the ability to indirectly ridicule or mock a certain topic or issue. Since satire is used in such a way that it is considered humorous, the author or speaker is usually safe from criticism reprimanding when it is on a certain issue. Satire can be used on important issues where a point or opinion is indirectly trying to be made, or it can simply be as entertainment. It is found in a wide variety of forms and for example can be read in a magazine or even seen in a movie. In general, it is a very effective tool that can be used in many ways, from cartoons to novels, and can be seen everywhere in our society today.

In the past, satire has been very important in oppressive or difficult periods of time in social or political events. There are times when satire is necessary, especially in turning a strong political opinion on an issue into a less demeaning form to a broader range of audience. Messages that would be either ignored or considered too brash and inappropriate can be made much more subtle with this genre and reach many more people effectively. George Orwell’s novel Animal Farm is a prime example of this. This political satire is targeted towards the society that was made after the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia in 1917 and the leaders involved. Stalin and the other “evil” leaders are represented as pigs and dogs in the novel, and many events that occurred in real life were represented in this novel. He states in the novel, “Somehow it seemed as though the farm had grown richer without making the animals themselves any richer - except of course for the pigs and the dogs.” He clearly inputs many strong criticisms and ridicule in his novel that his wide range of audience can see. His style, themes, and characters all effectively condemn the targets, but do not create trouble or problems as it is in the form of a novel about animals.

While Animal Farm is used a little more directly, a common form of satire is used with cartoons and can be seen everywhere today in America. Although they both share a specific purpose, a political cartoon is more subtle and shows more humor. Whether it is on political issues such as the presidential election or on economic issues such as our healthcare, they are used constantly with humorous drawings that have meanings with them. One example of a political cartoon that is focused on the healthcare reform is drawn by David Fitzsimmons. It shows a father and two kids walking out of the movie theatre having watched “A Christmas Carol”. The father asks his young son “what did we learn from Tiny Tim’s story?” and his son replies, “Healthcare reform has been a long time coming”. This is targeted towards the healthcare issue that is going on in the U.S. lately. Using the classic Tiny Tim and Uncle Scrooge story, a wide range of audience can relate and be entertained by it. Using the poor Tiny Tim as an example, it clearly shows the artist’s opinion on how there needs to be a healthcare reform. Another example of satire that is used as humor but is also on a political issue is “The Daily Show” with John Stewart. It is a TV show on Comedy Central where he uses satire the entire time and makes fun of current political issues. As it is considered comedy, his jokes and videos targeted towards political issues are not viewed as a problem or enrage society. Whether it’s a cartoon of this television show, satire is used on a present issue and can make a point using humor.

Besides from making a point on a social or political issue, whether it is strong in a novel or subtle in media, satire can also be used purely as entertainment. The purpose is not to insult or make a point on a certain issue, but is entirely for the audience’s enjoyment. There can be satire found in movies everywhere today, especially in comedies. There is usually no target that is a current issue or problem, and is usually making fun of a previous form of entertainment and is only for the viewer’s enjoyment. Two examples of this are in the movies “Austin Powers” and “Scary Movie”. The “Austin Powers” series of movies is a satire of 1960’s spy movies and ridicules the escapes and methods used by the spy and the stupidity of the evil villain. Mike Myers plays both the villain “Dr. Evil” and the spy “Austin Powers” and mocks previous spy movies such as James Bond. “Scary Movie” is a movie satire of horror films and that exaggerates the techniques used and characters in many of them. Instead of being scary, it is all comedy and is nothing like a horror movie. Both of these movies showing satire have no target on an issue and are not meant to change anyone’s opinion or make a strong opinion more subtle. Satire is used only for the entertainment of the viewer.

Satire is a very important genre that our society uses every day. There are many different forms of satire and it can be viewed by a variety of audiences. Whether it is seen or read, there is always as specific purpose with satire that can be made in many ways. It can be used to subtly give an opinion or message towards an important issue or simply for entertainment. If used correctly, anyone can use this tool on a daily basis for their desired purpose.

# Works Cited

Fitzsimmons, D. Healthcare Reform. *Politicalcartoons.com.* The Arizona Star.