

Subject Analysis

The subject of my satire is college life at the University of Oregon. I chose this subject because 1) it is currently the biggest influence in my peers' and my own life, and 2) I have been poking fun at it since the day I stepped foot on campus. Although this university is an incredible academic institution, there are flaws within the institution and the college culture that stems from it that can be addressed. The University of Oregon is best known for football, track, the greenery that establishes its Oregon landscape, being a liberal campus, and (of course) The Duck. The public's response to what the university is known for is accepting of its calm reputation, but it is overall passive in recognizing that it is anything more.

However, the content of the satire I have produced hardly addresses any of these things. I wanted to address the university and its students' flaws that can only be experienced if you work at or attend the university. By highlighting some of the more institutionalized flaws and students' behaviors, this satire pulls back the curtain of what the students truly think of the University of Oregon. Some of the topics addressed in the satire are the university's leadership, university spending, flawed student resources, and the value of a college education itself. Student habits that are made fun of are office hours and certain college majors. The overarching purpose of this satirical creative work is to recognize these faults in order to understand that they are, indeed, ridiculous.

The medium I chose to present my satirical work is in the format of an instruction manual. I chose this genre because I believe that the instruction manual for any product is one of the most boring and mundane publications in general, but it is significant in one sense: no one ever reads them. Instruction manuals are usually tossed aside, although they are actually

useful guides to operating a product. Knowing this, I chose to do a satirical instruction manual for the University of Oregon that gives an honest oversight on things that people have questions about or could go wrong regarding a student's undergraduate education knowing full well that no one would ever read it. I think much of the satire stems from the format of this genre, as well. From what was explained above to the structured, formal, and sometimes confusing copy used in common instruction manuals, the satire spills out over what is just explicitly discussed in the body text. Common features of an instruction manual include frequently asked questions, product diagrams, and featured descriptions of the parts of the product. I adopted these same features in the format of the product being the experience of receiving an education from the University of Oregon.

This being said, I think that the subject matter blended perfectly with the genre. Because an instruction manual is an unexpected medium to present satire, the humor of the genre's format is just as satirical as the content of the text. They work well together because satire, just like an instruction manual, can point out obvious flaws or issues; however, they are both never the immediate go-to for answers. In some ways, though, it was challenging to make this connection in the actual piece of work itself. The main problem with this project was trying to show the connection between the genre and the content without explicitly explaining. I attempted to make it more obvious by referring to the purchase of an education as being synonymous with the term "product."

All in all, I am proud of the work that I produced. I was able to think critically and satirically about my educational experience, and it was an original process that I was able to explore without limits.

