

The Daily Ruby

How to attend a student protest

An article on how to go to a protest event and get away with it.

Jane Doe — November 21, 2017 at 6:00 am

EUGENE — Lola Loustaunau, graduate student, was charged with student conduct code violations “Disruption of University” and “Failure to Comply” because of her alleged participation in a protest at President Schill’s “State of the University” speech. Loustaunau came back at the administration with an iron clad alibi and the charges were dropped.

Today Loustaunau called our office and wanted to be interviewed to share with the student body her tips and tricks on how she pulled one over Ol’ President Michael Schill’s eyes—the crowning piece to her dump on the administration.

1. First and foremost say you’re “going” on a Facebook Event.

“Like everyone, I get sent invites to a bunch of events,” Loustaunau said. “This step is crucial because in order for people to know you exist, you’re going to have to explicitly confirm on social media.”

Loustaunau explained that failure to follow through with this step means you might as well not show up because no one will remember you went and how you “stuck it to the man.”

2. Actually attend the event.

Loustaunau shrugged and rolled her eyes, “I know... it’s the most boring step, but remember you’re doing it for the ‘gram [instagram],” said Loustaunau.

She explained that this step is almost as important as step #1 but not quite.

3. Stand in the back.

“Definitely do not stand in the front where you’ll be caught on camera,” said Loustaunau.

Loustaunau cleverly pointed out that everyone will be snap-chatting the protest and all the iPhones will be recording from one point of view so be sure to stand behind everyone in order to remain off camera.

4. Call your friend via Skype on your phone.

“This interaction will serve as your alibi—this is also great because then your friend from Argentina will know that you’re better than her by being an advocate for something,” said Loustaunau.

5. Text people to tell them that you’re not at the protest, when you definitely are.

“This requires some multi-tasking but that is what is to be expected in the digital age when attending a protest,” said Loustaunau. “Remember when rushing the stage to stay close to the back of the group.”

It’s important to not wear any distinguishable clothing.

“I wore my grey Champion sweatshirt, black skinny jeans, and white converse. It was like camouflage.”

6. Take a selfie in front of an undistinguishable wall to conceal your whereabouts.

“I can’t teach someone to take a selfie, you either know it or you don’t,” said Loustaunau.

The most important factor of the selfie is the background and it needs to be obscure with no identifying marks.

“A white background is the best, hands down.”

When attending a protest it’s important for protestors to take lots of selfies in order to “flood everyone’s Instagram page.”

Loustaunau explained that posting a selfie in front of a random wall with a vague caption is the safest bet to feeling relevant when you’re trying to be a little secretive.

7. LEAVE.

“You went, you made a point, you took a selfie and posted it, what’s the point of staying any longer?” Loustaunau said.

8. Convince everyone you didn’t attend.

“No one is going to know you went unless you were in their snapchat story.”

Loustaunau explained that because everyone was busy recording the event through their iPhones those who followed her advice and stood in the back—were smart—completely out of everyone’s camera view.

In addition, the blank background selfie with emojis as the caption will serve as concrete evidence that you were somewhere else.

“When you don’t post a picture of yourself holding up signs or flooding the stage people won’t believe you went anyways,” said Loustaunau. “That’s why the blank background in your selfie was key.”

9. Request written confirmation.

Loustaunau affirmed that no one is going to waste their time questioning whether you went or not so they’ll believe what you said.

“Especially with your bullet proof alibi of Skype and text messages—I mean these older generations think you can only Skype on a laptop still,” said Loustaunau.

10. Laugh it off.

“Finally, know in your heart that you stuck it to the man and beat the system,” said Loustaunau before bursting into laughter.

“Once all this dies down go ahead and post the real photos of yourself storming the stage and call a reporter at the Daily Ruby, because hey, everyone should know how smart you are for beating President Schill at his own game,” Loustaunau threw her head back with a laugh.

“And you’ll get more Instagram followers too!”

Written by Jane Doe, a student journalist, at the University of Oregon.

Satire Project Analysis

I chose the subject of my satirical piece because it was relevant to the University of Oregon campus, President Michael Schill, and the protests against him. I also thought the actual story itself—about Lola Loustaunau being accused of attending and actually charged with misconduct because of a Facebook invite—was unbelievable.

The focus of my satire is Loustaunau who was accused of participating in the protest against President Schill at his ‘State of the University’ address. She was charged with student conduct code violations “Failure to Comply” and “Disruption of University” because she clicked ‘yes’ to a Facebook event for the protest but she did not actually attend. Loustaunau then had to present an alibi, text conversations, and formal letters to investigators; because she could prove that she was not at the protest, the charges were dropped

The student body was shocked at the ridiculousness of the whole ordeal and couldn’t believe someone could be charged with misconduct just for accepting a Facebook invitation.

Since Loustaunau’s alibi and proof was mostly internet and text-based and could have been easily done on a mobile iPhone at the protest, I thought her alibi wasn’t exactly iron-clad. Even the formal letters from her friend and professor seemed entirely ‘word of mouth.’ So because of these reasons I associated her as a ‘mastermind’ that worked the ‘flakey’ system that tried to shut her down with unsupportive evidence. Which indirectly was what the protest was supposed to do, essentially stick it to the man. She in this case did both. She attended the protest and then covered her tracks so she wouldn’t get caught.

In my parody I am trying to poke fun at the Schill administration and the investigative team of the University of Oregon and their lack of understanding of social media and newer technologies. I tried to make the team behind these charges look stupid on a more advanced level.

On another level I am also poking fun at my generation’s obsession with social media and how people feel compelled to share every aspect of their lives on Instagram and Facebook. Which is probably why the investigators thought Loustaunau attended because she said ‘yes’ to a Facebook event invite.

I tried to do a spin-off of the *Daily Emerald* because that is where I found the real news story from (<https://www.dailyemerald.com/2017/11/21/conduct-charges-dropped-student-proves-didnt-attend-schill-protest/>) and I feel that the next step would be for them to publish a story like this, especially if Loustaunau came to them with it, which is what I did in my satire. Also it’s very common for articles to take on the “X Ways To Do This” format too, so that’s a very common feature of this genre, including the use of quotes. Another aspect is that this article does not seem like full news, almost editorialized, and that’s how the Daily Emerald covers some of their stories—through the reporter’s opinion or sticking to a narrative.

I think this genre was the best to frame this satire because that’s where the story came from already, it’s typical that news organizations continue to follow up with a past story if it’s interest-

ing or has new information. Also, I imagine the girl to take on the persona of wanting the campus to know how smart and resourceful she was when 'sticking it to the man.' This is another element of parody that incorporates the stigma of girls always posting photos of themselves on social media and wanting the world to know how great they are and putting up a facade.

I think this worked really well overall. I wanted to write a piece that was relevant to our campus and community and the abundant student dissatisfaction with President Schill that is overwhelmingly felt on campus. I think this satire played a good part in making fun of the administration, Loustaunau, and the campus media itself. In short, these are all areas that need work when it comes to manifesting change on campus which was the purpose of the protest.

My main problem was probably coming up with good satirical quotes from Loustaunau because I want them to sound real but still satirical. Assuming another individual's voice was difficult for me, especially with one that I don't relate to.