

# AP Humorist Essay Notes

# Humorists as Vital

- Personal Benefits
  - Laughing as healthy – feels good –
    - Cuckoo's Nest
  - Laughing as escape from tension and routine
  - Helps to see fault and fix behavior -- examine self
  - Helps with tough times
    - Things They Carried
- Social Benefits
  - Identify, share, connect –
    - Viral video, Facebook link, Water cooler talk

# Humorists as Vital

- Political Benefits
  - Satire as checks and balances
  - Keep leaders and institutions in check
    - Daily Show/Onion/SNL
  - Voice for voiceless or fearful
  - Challenges dogma / stereotypes
    - Chaucer and church

# Humorists in Check

- Does not fix – just picks – not constructive
- Can hurt / demean – sarcasm and bullying
- Define boundaries of vulgarity and stereotypes
  - Misrepresentation
  - Loss of cultural formality in debate / discussion
- Creates culture where issues are not taken seriously – issues lose value

# Supports

- Films
- Literature
- Cartoons
- TV Shows
- Anecdotes
- Stand Up Comedians