

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Describe a problem in today's society which really irks you and WHY:

2. Using your best guess, explain WHY this problem exists (preferably more than ONE reason):

List 5 solutions to this problem.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

3. POPULATIONS AFFECTED: Indicate what population(s) in the following categories are MOST affected by this problem. ALL is acceptable:

RACE:

AGE:

ETHNICITY:

GENDER:

RELIGION:

OTHER (drivers, shoppers, internet users, teachers, etc):

4. List 5 benefits to solving this problem:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

5. NOW, reverse those benefits. For instance, if a benefit is "Less congestion during rush hour", turn it around to say "More congestion during rush hour."

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

YOUR "**MODEST PROPOSAL**"

Using the idea worksheet from prereading for "A **Modest Proposal**," you are to compose your own satirical essay in the style of Swift's "A **Modest Proposal**" in an attempt to persuade readers to agree with your opinion. Remember, YOUR OPINION IS ACTUALLY THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT YOU BELIEVE. Include the "benefits" (which are actually CONS) to the problem, and clearly explain the target population(s) affected by the problem (in this case, they are the ones who benefit from the problem). Think about the teacher's problem of people who cut her off while driving. In her **proposal**, she would actually encourage people to cut her off and explain the REVERSE benefits, solutions, etc. Try to incorporate one satirical element such as overstatement, exaggeration, etc.

Your **PROPOSAL** must be at LEAST 3 paragraphs long. It must be typed and double line spaced; however, font size, color, and style is up to you for this assignment. Use adjectives, details, and explanations to persuade your reader that YOUR VIEW is correct. You may stray from the typical "5

paragraph essay” format for this assignment, since it is of a more creative nature. Your **PROPOSAL** will be worth 100 points and will be assessed as follows:

REQUIREMENTS/EFFORT (typed/double spaced, at least 3 paragraphs, handed in on time, demonstrates expected or above average effort): ___/10

MECHANICS

(grammar, punctuation, spelling, verb tense, subject/verb agreement, etc): ___/20

SENTENCE CONSTRUCTION: You have used a variety of sentence style with NO run on sentences or fragments. ___/10

PROPOSAL: Your **proposal** is clear & is actually the REVERSE of what you believe: ___/20

ADJECTIVES/DETAILS: Your **proposal** contains numerous details and adjectives: ___/10

BENEFITS: You have clearly explained the “benefits” of your **proposal**:
___/20

TRANSITIONS: You have used transitions to tie your ideas together:
___/10