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English Research Paper Outline

Thesis: Due to the tension between Ireland and England, Swift’s personal attachment and dedication to these issues, and the convincing rhetorical strategies that Swift uses in this essay, “A Modest Proposal,” a clearly satirical piece, was interpreted as an actual solution and turned into a hoax.

Intro: basic info about “A Modest Proposal” – date, author, was a hoax, etc.

Paragraph 1: background on Swift – broken into 2 paragraphs?

In order to understand what motivated Swift to write satire, and how he was so persuasive, the reader must get a glimpse into his life and his writing styles.

* Other works/how they relate to the theme
  + “Gulliver’s travels”
  + “Swift's increasing knowledge of Ireland resulted in a series of passionate and daring tracts which account for his later reputation as a patriotic writer" (Fox 24).
* Writing style
  + “His profound self-consciousness over his projecting role has left its mark, not only in apologetic asides in the projecting pamphlets themselves” (Treadwell 447).
  + What made him good at satire
  + Why he was motivated to write satire

Paragraph 2: background on satire

One must also understand what defines a work as satire and how they can identify it when it.

* History of satire/origins/
* Common tactics used in satire
* How to identify it
* Satire v hoax
  + “There can be collocations such as satiric parody, and satiric allegory” (Condren 388).

Paragraph 3: Background on Ireland/England at the time

To further understand Swift’s motivation, and why this paper cause such an uproar, it is necessary to understand the political and economic situation that Ireland was facing at the time that “A Modest Proposal” was written.

* “In looking at Swift, it is important to recall the highly politicized early history and the ways in which he was written into and out of it” (Fox).
* Mistreatment of Ireland by England
* Poverty

Paragraph 4: Swift’s view of the event happening

Swift’s personal views of the events happening in Ireland and its treatment must be investigated in order to understand why the paper was written, and how Swift could be so passionate and convicting and convincing in his writing.

* Irish sympathizer (born in Ireland)
* Fluctuating popularity/reputation

Possible paragraph Swift’s reception?

* + Ireland
  + England
  + Other parts of Europe
  + “The Reception of Jonathan Swift in Europe”- will read more when checked out from library, incorporate that text.

Paragraph 5: Evidence that it’s satire

Upon close reading of “A Modest Proposal,” the reader can clearly understand that this essay is a satire.

* Ironic narrator: wants social progress and economic progress, but somehow doesn’t see how horrible their proposals are.
* Why irony is important
  + Deeper truths
  + Political statements
* Highly flawed ways of thinking

Paragraph 6: Literary tactic used by Swift-

There are many literary tactics that Swift uses that make it seem like the author actually thinks that their claims are reasonable unless “A Modest Proposal” is closely read.

* Title
* Rhetorical strategies
* Negating arguments when they are raised
  + “Therefore I repeat, let no man talk to me of these and the like expedients, 'till he hath at least some glympse of hope, that there will ever be some hearty and sincere attempt to put them into practice” (Swift).
* Audience drawn in.
  + “engages with the audience is to make them see deeper political, moral, and social truths and problems through his use of irony”

Paragraph 7: Literary tactic used by Swift 2?

Conclusion:

* Comparison of “A Modest Proposal” to modern day works
* The power that a hoax can have
  + Motivation
  + Rage