Name:

Haflin, Pound, Raymond

Satire, Irony, and Humor

Date:

**As we begin the Stand-Up Comedy Unit, it’s important to keep in mind why we’re watching each of these funny sketches. We’re looking for the techniques that make each bit effective (or not). Use this sheet to enhance your understanding of each technique.**

Stand-Up Comedy Techniques:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Technique | Definition | Comedians to Study |
| Anecdote | Comedians often use anecdotes, or short stories, in order to entertain the audience. These stories are often parabolic and generally reflect a real-life experience to which the audience can easily relate. | Louis CK—SNL Monologue  Hannibal Burress—“College Newspaper Interview”  Dane Cook—“Pickles”, “Sneezing Atheist” |
| One-Liners (surrealist or absurdist humor) | Comedians sometimes beguile their audience using a series of one-liners, often consisting of world play and the simple and mundane that most people never consider. | Steven Wright  Dimitri Martin |
| Music | Some more recent comedians use music (vocals, guitar, piano, etc.) in order to enhance their comedic acts. | Dimitri Martin—“Stuff on Piano”  Bo Burnham |
| Sexual Content and Female Comedians | Sex and sexual encounters have long left audiences in stiches, but recently, it seems that many mainstream comedians rely on explicit content and gender in order to enhance humor. | Amy Schumer  Sarah Silverman  Joan Rivers |