Name:

Mr. Haflin

Satire

Date:

Stand-Up and Universal Truths

**Background:** Thus far, we have watched an episode of *Louie* and at least one example of anecdotal comedy. As we start to compose our own stand-up comedy by examining the world around us, it’s important for us to first reflect on (seemingly mundane) situations we’ve found ourselves in, embrace what French novelist Albert Camus dubbed “the absurd in everyday life”, and comment on the truths we feel every day.

**Instructions:** Using the following questions as a guide, practice identifying “Universal Truths” so that we can begin to compose a mimesis of the anecdotal approach to comedy.

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| 1. What are some concepts that seem to be true for most people? For example, Mike Birbiglia’s point that “Jokes can bring people together, but when taken out of context, they can rip us apart”.

Universal Truths that exist: |
| 1. Work with your group to “tease out” truths from each other’s stories. **This is difficult, so work together to brainstorm ideas**

Universal Truths from my stories: |
| 1. Closely examine your stories. What stands out conceptually as ridiculous or absurd, perhaps which resulted in affecting the situation? **These will be details that you can focus on in your stand-up routine**.

Content which seems absurd in my stories: |

Need Help? Practice looking for truths and the ridiculousness of everyday life in Aziz Ansari’s standup:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WFR4PPxp2z8>