Cultural Differences

Compare your own country or culture against another that you have visited or extensively researched. Decide the direction of your satire before you begin. If you believe your country is better, try approaching the essay as if you prefer the other country. The key is to use sarcasm with subtlety. Satire is used to call attention to social problems; by sarcastically praising the flaws of the other country, you can bring attention to actual issues in your own country. If you believe your country has more intellectual freedoms, praise the restrictions of the other country.

Gun Control

Argue that gun control is too lax or too strict. If you believe gun control is too lax, you may put a satirical spin on your argument by declaring that there are not enough guns on the streets. Suggest a law mandating a gun in every household. The irony of the situation provides the satire. If you believe gun control is too strict, you may argue to ban guns altogether. The argument is shown to be ridiculous by the extreme exaggeration.

Illegal Immigration

Argue for or against strict immigration laws. Include in your essay the reasons illegal immigrants take extreme risks to cross the border. List the opportunities available to them when they arrive in Australia; the fact that their options are limited should be played to exaggeration. Offer a realistic but unachievable solution to the problem, such as allowing a civilian militia to stand guard along the border. Australia would never allow this solution, but the shocking and exaggerated nature of the proposal highlights the need for a real solution.

The Economy

Open your paper by confidently stating you have found a way to fix the country's economic problems. Convince the reader that the monetary system we use now is nothing more than worthless paper, and it would be much more valuable for Australians to return to the barter system. Use your paper to envision a world where people empty their bank accounts and literally throw their money down the drain because it now has no more value than scrap paper. Include examples of citizens trading homemade baked goods or homegrown produce in exchange for products or services. Use confidence in your tone to convey the ridiculousness of this satirical proposition while focusing your critical analysis on the current economic situation.

Politics

Politics and satire have a long-running relationship. Political parties, politicians and changes in the law all provide good pickings for the satirical writer. Read newspapers and watch the news regularly for events. Immigration, changes in the health service and education are evergreen topics for satire. The Daily Satire website is a good guide for the prospective satire writer.

Religion

Extreme religious views that threaten to impinge on society are legitimate satirical topics. Create your own church (e.g. The Handover Church can be used to satirise certain fundamentalist issues, or focus upon extracting money from its parishioners for the promise of ever-lasting life). The key to good satire, especially when religion is the topic, is to keep it tasteful. It is possible to criticise extreme views without being offensive.

Science

Most weeks a scientist somewhere in the world announces that something is bad for us. The scientist´s view is sometimes reversed, or at least other scientists argue about it. Many of the prohibited foods seem harmless, or at least humans have been eating them for so long that the fact they are suddenly harmful seems absurd. Life on other planets is another possible topic that a writer might use as the basis of a satirical comment on life on Earth, such as views on population control.

The Media and Celebrities

Reality television shows of every kind are ideal for satire. From entire shows devoted to police chasing cars to the daily confessional shows, where audiences watch individuals expose their emotionally harrowing secrets as a form of entertainment. There is plenty of material for a satire on the current media influence on society. Celebrities, and the way the public and media treat them, is also a subject for satire.

Pop Culture

Pop culture is another topic that is very popular to satirise as well. The beauty about pop culture is that most people know about it, therefore you will not need to keep your audience as much in mind as you write your paper. Scandals and celebrity mishaps, as well as movies, music, and television shows, are all open to your satirical paper. Most important of all, open your mind and be creative; a satirical paper can be fun. But it must also get a point across when the reader is finished reading your text. Perhaps you could introduce Lindsay Lohan or Charlie Sheen as your life coach and explain, with tongue firmly in cheek, what great role models they make.

Local Issues

While it is true you see examples of satire on the national level that does not mean satirising issues at the local level is off limits. If there is an issue in your local area that you believe would be a candidate for a good satire topic, write about it. For example, if you believe the mayor of your municipality is doing a terrible job and you want to write a satire about how he / she couldn't make a good decision if his / her life depended on it, write about it. You can even satirise schools as a concept. However make sure it is okay with your teacher before doing so.