

# ESSAY STRATEGIES

## 1 COMMIT TO ORIGINALITY

Laughing is an emotional and physical response to stimulation that either brings joy or embarrassment. Comedian Chelsea Handler said to be so bold with comedy that it makes people uncomfortable. Don't hold back in your writing, but rather write in a way that appeals to your sense of humor. You can't make everyone laugh, so write for yourself, whether it be in a style that brings joy or embarrassment.

## 2 THE PLAYFUL EXAGGERATION

It is important to tell the truth in your essays, but comedian Andrew Tarvin uses exaggeration to turn the normal into the funny. When thinking about the observations you've made, try to dramatize them through exaggeration. Tarvin says you can like ketchup on your salad, or you can absolutely love ketchup as a salad dressing, and that makes it funnier. Write your essay in a style that still tells the truth but raises the stakes.

## 3 COMEDY IS CRUELTY

The universal human experience is pain. Author John Vorhaus says that humor isn't going through something terrible yourself; it's watching others go through it. Write in a style that explores the pain in the situation, and even make jokes at your own expense. Using conflict in your essay will force your characters to break out of the status quo and make them relatable to others. People enjoy humor that is based on our human experience. Analyze the pain of being human in your essay.

## 4 DEFEATING THE EXPECTATION

When Jerry Seinfeld writes jokes, he lists out every possible emotion or image associated with his topic and figures out ways to connect them. When writing an essay, every paragraph has to transition into the next one. Making connections between your topics is necessary but also funny. Readers create expectations around what they think you'll say next. You can defeat these expectations by making a connection they never saw coming.

