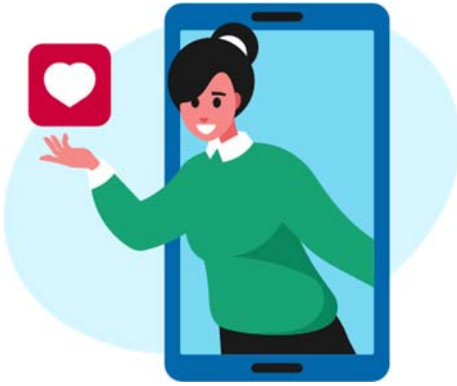


Name _____



Trending Truths

Directions: Read the passage carefully. Notice how exaggeration, irony, and humor are used to make a point. Remember that satire often entertains while also criticizing a social issue. Answer the questions that follow, supporting your responses with examples from the text.

Essay: "The Sacred Follower Count"

At last, the modern world has found its true measure of human worth: the follower count. No longer must we trouble ourselves with outdated standards like kindness, intelligence, or contribution to society. Why waste time helping a neighbor carry groceries when you could post a selfie and gain three new admirers?

Our ancestors fought wars and built civilizations, but did they ever go viral? No! Their sacrifices pale compared to the noble struggle of refreshing a screen every thirty seconds to see if your numbers have climbed. Some say social media doesn't reflect reality, but what is reality if not the sum of hearts, likes, and retweets?

Let us imagine a new world where colleges admit students based solely on their Instagram reach, and job applications require screenshots of your follower stats. Who needs resumes when one can prove greatness by trending for six hours on TikTok? Clearly, this is the path to a brighter, more meaningful future.

Activity - Satire Detector Questions

1. What is the central critique of society in this essay?
2. Identify one example of **exaggeration (hyperbole)** in the passage. Why is it effective?
3. Identify one example of **irony** in the passage. How does it create humor while making a point?
4. How does the passage use **absurd scenarios** (e.g., college admissions, job applications) to highlight its critique?
5. Do you think the satire is effective in making readers question their own social media habits? Why or why not?