

Trending Truths Answer Key

1. Central Critique

- Model Answer: The essay critiques society's obsession with social media followers as a shallow and misguided measure of self-worth.
- *Teacher Note:* Look for recognition of misplaced values tied to follower counts.

2. Exaggeration Example

- Model Answer: "Their sacrifices pale compared to the noble struggle of refreshing a screen every thirty seconds." This is effective because it ridicules the trivial act of refreshing compared to historic sacrifices.
- *Teacher Note:* Students should connect exaggeration to ridicule.

3. Irony Example

- Model Answer: The statement "Why waste time helping a neighbor... when you could post a selfie" is ironic because it inverts priorities, humorously suggesting selfies are more valuable than kindness.
- *Teacher Note:* Accept other examples as long as they show contrast between stated and intended meaning.

4. Absurd Scenarios

- Model Answer: The idea of colleges admitting students based on Instagram reach and jobs requiring screenshots is absurd, but it highlights how ridiculous it would be if society truly valued followers over real achievements.
- *Teacher Note:* Students should explain how absurdity reveals flaws in current attitudes.

5. Effectiveness

- Model Answer: Yes, it is effective because it uses humor and exaggeration to make readers laugh while reflecting on their own online behavior. The humor makes the critique easier to accept and remember.
- *Teacher Note:* Encourage answers that tie satire back to self-awareness.