

English Department Writing Sample for College Writing, Spring 2013

Please write the following information at the top of your sample:

Your name and student ID number

Your course and section number

Today's date and the time limit you were given

According to your professor's instructions, please write a brief essay in response to the prompt below. Develop your answer as fully as possible in the time allotted, and please use your best English, as this will help us determine if the course you are in is the one that will best meet your needs.

Our common text for this semester, *America Again*, by Stephen Colbert, is a work of comedy. Comedy plays an important role in our stressful, everyday lives. Many people unwind by watching shows such as *The Colbert Report* or clips on sites like Funny or Die, or even flipping through internet memes, and it is well understood how important laughter is to our well-being. We know it strengthens the immune system and reduces stress. Think for a moment about the role laughter plays in your own well-being or your own sense of happiness. To what extent do you rely on comic relief (in the form of films, TV shows, books/comic books, websites, funny friends or any other outlet) for a sense of well-being? Discuss this, being specific about how comedy and laughter affect your health and happiness.

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