English IV/DiMatteo

Jonathan Swift: “A Modest Proposal”

After having read “A Modest Proposal” by Jonathan Swift, you should now have a clear understanding of how he employs both logic and emotion to create a satirical argument for a social problem. With your group, you will create your own!

1. Choose a social problem below (list generated from class discussion on Tuesday):

* Intolerance/ignorance
* Money/greed/ Poverty/taxes
* Discrimination
* Bullying
* Immigration/Sanctuary Cities
* Domestic Violence
* Censorship
* Cost of College
* Drugs
* Nuclear weapons/war

1. Create a satirical solution to the social problem. For example, Swift takes the idea that British landlords are metaphorically consuming their Irish tenants to its most ridiculous extreme: literally eating the infants of the tenants.
2. Make sure it is effective satire by highlighting both the *logos* (facts, reason, logic, data) and the *pathos* (emotion, sympathy). The basis of the presentation is satirical in nature, so consider an **extreme** response to the problem.
3. You will present your “Modest Proposal” to the class! You can choose whatever method you want: infomercial, commercial, SNL or Judge Judy-type skit, or a short lecture. You are welcome to come up with a different presentation idea; just clear it with me first. You should be able to explicitly point out the logos and pathos after your presentation.
4. You will be graded on the following: 30% satirical response, 25% logos, 25% pathos, 20% mode of presentation (100% total). In your presentation, be sure to clearly identify your problem and WHY it’s a problem, offer your satirical solution, and explain how it will solve the problem.