

Essay Topics for *Gulliver's Travels* and "A Modest Proposal"

Directions: choose one of the topics below and write an 800-1,000 word essay. Include a minimum of three properly cited quotes from the text. An outline is required.

1. Discuss Swift's use of satire in "A Modest Proposal." Select three instances of exaggerated ideas, attitudes, or language, and explain why he is attacking these ideas. What is Swift's purpose for doing so?
2. Discuss Swift's use of satire in *Gulliver's Travels*. Select three points where the Yahoos behave like humans (only more so...). What is Swift trying to show about humans in these scenes?
3. Discuss ethnocentrism and arrogance in *Gulliver's Travels*. How does Gulliver express his ethnocentrism towards the Yahoos and how does the Master Houyhnhnm express his ethnocentrism towards the Yahoos and the humans. What does this show about Swift's anti-humanist worldview?
4. How are the Houyhnhnms like pre-lapsarian mankind? Discuss three examples of their lack of evil, pride, sin, greed, lust, etc. How is the Island of the Houyhnhnms Edenic?