

1 SUBJECT

Write down the subject you want to make joke about. It can be any subject.

2 OPINION

What's your strong opinion about the subject? Express it in a simple sentence.

3 RUN YOUR OPINION THROUGH THE FUNNY FILTERS

a IRONY

What's the polar opposite of the opinion?

b CHARACTER

Identify a character associated with the opinion. If there isn't one, invent one.

List 1–3 traits of the character, expressed as brief adjectives.

Write a sentence showing the character acting on their traits.

c REFERENCE

Identify an experience relatable to others—yet unique—about the opinion

d SHOCK

Write a sentence expressing the opinion using swears, sex, violence, or something gross.

e HYPERBOLE

Exaggerate the opinion to an impossible extreme. Then exaggerate it more.

f PARODY

State the opinion in the voice of an entertainment or information product or format.

g WORDPLAY

Think of sound-alike words or similar words to make a pun, double entendre, or made-up word to state the opinion.

h ANALOGY

Map an analogous situation on top of the opinion, alluding to the other situation.

i MADCAP

Express the opinion using funny physical action, goofy sounds, or silly nonsense.

j MISPLACED FOCUS

Without stating the opinion, focus on something unimportant or silly related to it, making it the “elephant in the room.”

k METAHUMOR

Find the humor in the opinion, then deconstruct or mock that humor.

4 COMBINE THE FUNNY FILTERS

Without confusing or complicating the joke, try to combine the ideas from two or more of the Funny Filter results above.

COMBO 1

COMBO 2

5 PICK THE MOST AMUSING

Of all the lines you wrote on this worksheet, select the most amusing.

6 CHECK IT

Check your line and make sure (1) it’s not a cliché, (2) it contains only one impossible thing, (3) there no unnecessary words, (4) the contrast is heightened, (5) the funny part comes last, and then write it here:

6 TEST IT

Try out your line on others. If they don’t like it, try another one. If they laugh, you wrote a good joke!