

# DRAMA

## Black Comedy Essay Plan

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The style of black comedy uses a range of black comedy conventions and dramatic techniques to challenge the audience with confronting and taboo issues in such a way that provokes thought, whilst also making the audience laugh. A taboo is a topic that is normally suppressed in society, as is seen through the taboos raised in *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* and *October*. Whilst the ideas presented in these plays are controversial, they can be presented to the audience in a thought-provoking way through the use of the black comedy conventions of abusive and inappropriate language, graphic and confronting visual images, the use of caricature to emphasise individuals' warped values as well as through individuals putting on facades in order to maintain a 'perfect' life. It is the use of these types of conventions that has enabled black comedy to be such a powerful form of theatre for audiences.

Abusive language – shock value (*October*):

- Issue: controversial issue of violence and destructive nature of fear
  - Original paragraph 1 and 3 (first half)

Violent and confronting images and absurd world (*Lieutenant* and *October*):

- Issue: violence and how its embedded in our society + terrorism
  - Original paragraphs 5 and 6 and 2

Caricature – warped values of people (*October* and *Lieutenant*):

- Issue: examination into perfect suburban life and subverted values of our society
  - Original paragraph 3 (second half) and 7

Putting on a façade (*October*):

- Issue: façade that everything is fine and there is no problem
  - Original paragraph 4