

## The Lowest Animal by Mark Twain

1. What is the main thesis of Mark Twain's essay?
2. Right off the bat, what is ironic about Twain's thesis?
3. Satire often begins by sounding straightforward and serious, but then the satirist uses language and examples that make us suspect there's something funny going on. What about Twain's "experiments" give us clues that his writing is satirical? (paraphrase specific examples from the text to support your answer)
4. Summarize Twain's main arguments. Look for what specific human behaviors Twain is targeting in this satire.
5. Find an example of Twain using situational irony. Paraphrase the text that is an example. Explain why it is an example.
6. Find an example of Twain using exaggeration. Paraphrase the text that is an example. Explain why it is an example.
7. List the different criticisms Twain presents about the human race in order as how they appear in the essay. (There should be 13).
8. What is your opinion of Twain's satirical essay? Do you agree with his ideas or even some of them? Or do you disagree? Explain your answer.