**11AP**

**Groucho Marx’s Letter to Warner Brothers**

There is some doubt about whether Warner Bros. had actually objected to the title of the Marx Brothers film; but there’s little doubt that this letter was primarily a publicity stunt by Groucho. In any case, it is a great example of the persuasive powers of humor. Groucho’s style was instantly recognizable to fans of popular culture in the first half of the twentieth century.

Please answer the following questions to help determine the purpose of Marx’s letter, what makes his style so distinctive, and how this style helps him achieve his purpose.

1. Why does Marx begin with “Apparently”?

2. Why does he say that he had no idea that the city of Casablanca belonged to Warner Bros.?

3. What is the effect of Groucho’s short history of Casablanca (para.2)?

4. Would it really be difficult to distinguish between Ingrid Bergman and Harpo Marx (para.3)? Why put that in there?

5. Why does Marx offer so many examples of “Brothers” (para.4)?

6. What is the effect of the parenthetical story about “Brother, Can You Spare a Dime (para.4)?

7. Why does Marx bring up Luther Burbank’s experiments with fruits and vegetables (para.7)?

8. Why does Marx qualify his statement that he loves Warners (para.9) with “Some of my best friends are Warner Brothers”?

9. Why does Marx suggest that the source of Warner Bros.’ concerns about his film come from an ambitious young lawyer, referring to him as a “pasty-faced legal adventurer” (para.10)?