English 10H

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The Spirit of Parody

I. Define the following terms:

parody –

anecdotal proof –

false evidence –

imperative (noun)–

covert didacticism –

sidebar –

II. After reading both *Onion* articles, please find examples of three or more of these devices, underlining them and noting in the margin where they appear.

III. Passage questions: Answer the following in complete sentences and use evidence from the text.

**“Talking to Your Child About the WTC Attack”**

1. Where in the article is the first occasion where its parodic nature becomes apparent? What is the writer making fun of?

2. What is the tone of both the speaker and the *Onion* writer? Evidence?

3. Look at the date of the article. Why do you think there is so much historical information presented here?

4. What appeal might this article have had so soon after the attacks? How do you think you would have reacted to it?

5. Find examples of where the author uses language more common to conversations with children. Why do you think the author possibly did this?

**“More U.S. Children Being Diagnosed with Youthful Tendency Disorder”**

6. What is the writer making fun of in this piece?

7. What is the tone of both the speaker and the *Onion* writer? Evidence?

8. What does the author do to make the article look legitimate? Give examples.

9. Why does the author turn the syndrome into an acronym (YTD)?

10. What does the author suggest here about the relationship between adults and children?

IV. On a separate piece of paper, answer the following question using evidence from BOTH articles to support your opinion: How do these *Onion* articles create an illusion of reality? What sorts of rhetorical devices, literary elements, and language do the authors use to foster this illusion? Write in paragraph form, and use in-text citations in your response.

V. Parody Writing: Write a parody using the “YTD” article as a model. Invent a medical syndrome out of what we consider normal behavior. Be sure to use urgent tones or speak hyperbolically. You should try to include invented anecdotes, as well as some of the other techniques used in the *Onion* articles, such as: invented specialists, bogus statistics, sidebars, and even photographs. This must be typed, double-spaced, and submit to turnitin.com by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.