

The Late Show With Stephen Colbert
Submission Packet
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'The Late Show with Stephen Colbert' Sample Monologue

WELCOME TO THE 'A LATE SHOW' EVERYONE. SO GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT WHILE BEING FORCED TO STAY HOME. SPEAKING OF PEOPLE WHO SHOULD STAY INSIDE, PRESIDENT TRUMP STOOD IN THE ROSE GARDEN TODAY TO ANNOUNCE NEW MEASURES AGAINST CHINA FOR ITS ACTIONS IN HONG KONG.

THE SPEECH TURNED CAMPAIGN-FRIENDLY, VIOLATING BOTH ETHICS LAWS AND THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE. AS YOU CAN IMAGINE THE SPEECH WENT SO FAR SOUTH IT NOW PAYS MEMBERSHIP FEES AT MAR-A-LAGO.

(SOT)

[TAKE: SOT: CNBC 7/14/2020: ROSE GARDEN PRESS EVENT. T:5:15 "WE WERE SAYING-- I WAS ASKING, WHY ARE WE PAYING SO MUCH MORE THAN CHINA? CHINA HAS 1.4 BILLION PEOPLE, WE HAVE 325... PROBABLY? 325 MILLION, APPROXIMATELY"]

(ON CAM)

AH, THE SWEET SOUND OF A WORLD LEADER WHO'S SURE OF HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE IN HIS CARE.

AS TRUMP'S SPEECH DEVOLVED IT VIOLATED SOMETHING CALLED 'THE HATCH ACT'-- AND NO, IT'S NOT MY HIT 1988 AXE-THEMED IMPROV TROUPE OF THE SAME NAME.

[TAKE:FF: YOUNG STEPHEN ON STAGE W/ OTHERS, HE WIELDS A HATCHET OVER A WATERMELON, GALLAGHER-STYLE]

(ON CAM)

AUDIENCES CALLED US "FUN", "HOMICIDAL", AND "REFRESHINGLY SEEDLESS".

'THE HATCH ACT' WAS APPROVED IN 1939 TO HELP LIMIT POLITICAL ACTIVITY ON FEDERAL TIME. SO ALL TRUMP HAD TO DO IN ORDER FOR HIS TEAM TO NOT VIOLATE THE HATCH ACT, WAS TO AVOID MAKING THIS A CAMPAIGN SPEECH. AND THAT MEANS NOT MENTIONING ONE PARTICULAR MALARKEY-HATER.

(SOT)

[TAKE: SOT: CNBC 7/14/2020: ROSE GARDEN PRESS EVENT. T:21:10 "JOE BIDEN DIDN'T JUST SIDE WITH CHINA ON THE VIRUS, HE DID, HE CALLED ME--AGAIN, XENOPHOBIC-- THAT'S WHAT HE SAID, YOU ALL HEARD IT."

(ON CAM)

SO CLOSE!

ALSO, TRUST TRUMP TO BRING UP BIDEN'S STRONGEST ATTACK POINT. MAKES YOU WONDER HOW HE WOULD HANDLE A HIGH SCHOOL BULLY.

(AS TRUMP)

"CHAD DIDN'T JUST SIDE WITH THE LACROSSE TEAM TO GIVE ME AN ATOMIC WEDGIE, NO, HE ALSO CALLED ME 'DIAPER BABY' THAT'S WHAT HE SAID, YOU ALL HEARD IT."

AS THE SPEECH WENT ON TRUMP REALLY CUT LOOSE. FROM HIS LAST TETHERS TO REALITY.

(SOT)

[TAKE: SOT: CNBC 7/14/2020: ROSE GARDEN PRESS EVENT. T:21:10. "BUT HUNTER, WHERE IS HUNTER, WHERE IS HUNTER, BY THE WAY?" | T:22:32 "...BURISMA...AND YOU ALL KNOW ABOUT BURISMA, BUT NOTHING HAPPENS, NOBODY CARES"]

(ON CAM)

TRUMP'S CONSPIRACY THEORY PEDDLING IS BECOMING AN OLYMPIC SPORT. LIKE VERBAL GYMNASTICS, DOWNHILL SCREECHING, OR DRESSAGE.

(CAM TURN)(WHISPERS)

THE HORSE IS QANON

(CAM TURN BACK)

AND WHY DOES TRUMP SAY THE WORD 'BURISMA' LIKE HE'S IN A TELENOVELA?

(VO)

[TAKE: FF: A CUTOUT OF TRUMP AND A LADY OVER THE BACKGROUND OF A TELENOVELA LIVING ROOM. THE LADY'S CUTOUT GETS CLOSER TO TRUMP.]

(AS TELENOVELA WOMAN)

OH DONALD, IT IS I, YOUR LOVER, BURISMA! WE CANNOT BE TOGETHER! IT IS FORBIDDEN!

(AS TRUMP)

OH, BURISMAAAAAA

(ON CAM, FAKE CRYING)

I JUST WISH THEY WOULD FINALLY END UP TOGETHER, Y'KNOW?

BUT AS WITH MOST OF TRUMP'S VIOLATIONS, IT BECAME FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY WHEN IVANKA TRUMP TWEETED:

(READS TWEET)

[TAKE: FF: IVANKA TRUMP TWEET 7/14/2020 "IF IT'S GOYA, IT HAS TO BE GOOD. SI ES GOYA, TIENE QUE SER BUENO" <https://bit.ly/2ZHf7nX>]

(ON CAM)

PROMOTING PRODUCTS FROM A PRIVATE COMPANY WHILE YOU'RE THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISOR IS WHAT MANY LAW EXPERTS CALL A BIG 'NO-NO' AND 'ILLEGAL-ILLEGAL'.

OR, TO PUT IT IN TERMS IVANKA WILL UNDERSTAND: FRIJOLES, FRIJOLES, LA FRUTA MÁGICA, CUANTO MÁS COMES, MÁS VIOLAS LAS LEYES DE ÉTICA.

[TAKE: L3: "BEANS, BEANS, THE MAGICAL FRUIT, THE MORE YOU EAT THE MORE YOU VIOLATE ETHICS LAWS."]

(ON CAM)

BUT IVANKA IS HARDLY THE ONLY OFFICIAL TO HAVE VIOLATED THE HATCH ACT.

KELLYANNE CONWAY, TRUMP ADVISOR AND LUCIFER'S HEAD OF P.R., HAS BEEN ACCUSED OF MULTIPLE VIOLATIONS.

[TAKE: FF: KELLYANNE STANDS IN HELLFIRE CIRCLED BY PRESS]

ALONG WITH GUY-WHO-OPENED-THE-ARC-A-TINY-BIT JARED KUSHNER,

[TAKE: FF: JARED IN FRONT OF A SLIGHTLY OPEN ARC OF THE COVENANT]

VOLLEYBALL COACH FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE CORN SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS,

[TAKE: FF: SARAH SANDERS IN A CORN FIELD, A VOLLEYBALL HITS HER HEAD]

AND HUMAN 'HUH?' MICK MULVANEY.

[TAKE: FF: JUST MICK]

(ON CAM)

AT THIS POINT THE ENTIRE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION HAS TAKEN A HATCHET TO THE HATCH ACT. I THINK IT'S TIME TO START ANOTHER IMPROV TROUPE.

[TAKE: FF: MOCK-UP OF TRUMP, IVANKA, KELLYANNE, JARED, SARAH, AND MICK ON STAGE W/ AXES HACKING THE CONSTITUTION]

(ON CAM)

MOVING ON TO SOME JUICY GOSSIP, AND BY JUICY I MEAN TENDER GROUND BEEF COOKED AND SPICED TO PERFECTION BEFORE BEING VACUUM-SEALED INTO PRE-PACKAGED PLASTIC BAGS AND BOILED TO A BALMY 190 DEGREES.

[TAKE: FF: IMAGE OF BAGS OF TACO BELL MEAT <https://bit.ly/2CLiEJ1>]

THAT'S RIGHT, RUMOR HAS IT THAT TACO BELL WILL BE ELIMINATING SOME OF ITS POPULAR MENU ITEMS.

(CAM TURN)

[TAKE: CART: SCARY MUSIC]

HOW WILL I TELL MY BODY I HATE IT NOW?

(CAM TURN BACK)

TACO BELL LOVERS RESPONDED WITH GUTTURAL CRIES OF PURE ANGUISH, THE LIKES OF WHICH HUMANITY HAS NEVER WITNESSED. BUT AFTER VISITING THE RESTROOM THEY TWEETED:

(READS TWEET)

[TAKE: FF: TWEET BY @POQUITHOMAS 7/15/2020: "FIRST THEY CAME FOR THE POWER BURRITO AND I SAID NOTHING, FOR I DID NOT ORDER THE POWER BURRITO. NOW THEY'VE COME FOR THE QUESARITO, AND THERE IS NO ONE LEFT TO SPEAK FOR ME."]

AND

(READS TWEET)

[TAKE: FF: TWEET BY @ELECTR0JESUS 7/14/2020: "AS A VEGETARIAN I'M FULLY PREPARED TO BLOW MY BRAINS OUT IF THEY GET RID OF POTATOES"]

(ON CAM)

I'M JUST GLAD NO ONE IS OVERREACTING.

THE ITEMS THAT ARE RUMORED TO BE REMOVED ARE:

(READS LIST)

[TAKE: FF: -ALL POTATO ITEMS -QUESARITOS -LOADED GRILLERS -TRIPLE LAYER NACHO -BEEFY FRITO BURRITO -SPICY TOSTADA -THE SUPREME CHEESARITO -7-LAYER BURRITO -(UNCONFIRMED) SPICY NACHO SUPREME]

(ON CAM)

AND ONLY ONE OF THOSE IS COMPLETELY MADE UP. GUESS RIGHT AND YOU'LL WIN A LIFETIME SUPPLY OF SPICY HOT SHAME!

NOW BEFORE ANYONE FEELS LIKE THEY'RE IN QUIERE TACO HELL, REPRESENTATIVES DID NOT CONFIRM THESE REPORTS, ALTHOUGH THEY DID SAY AND I QUOTE:

(READS QUOTE)

[TAKE: FF: TACO BELL REPRESENTATIVE 7/15/2020: "WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF EVOLVING OUR MENU TO SIMPLIFY OPERATIONS AND MAKE OUR TEAM MEMBER AND CUSTOMER EXPERIENCES EASIER. WE'LL HAVE MORE TO SHARE WITH YOU SOON."]

(ON CAM)

SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE TRYING HARD TO CRUNCHWRAP-THIS-UP SUPREME. BUT THAT'S FINE, AS LONG AS IT DOESN'T HAPPEN RIGHT BEFORE MY LUNCH.

(PULLS OUT A TACO AND TAKES BITE)

[TAKE: PROP: TACO BELL TACO]

STICK AROUND-- KRISTEN BELL IS HERE! WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

ROLL-IN: DONATE YOUR ORGANS TO RBG!

REUTERS TRANSCRIPT

(7/14/2020)

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was admitted to a hospital on Tuesday for treatment of a possible infection, a court spokeswoman said Justice Ginsburg is resting comfortably. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwmTGvw9lkg>)

V.O. begins over stock footage of various people being lazy and watching TV. It is dark and somber, the music is 'Sarah-McLachlan-Save-The-Animals' in style.

V.O.

Feeling lethargic? Like there's nothing to do while you watch democracy crumble before your very eyes?

CUT TO:

Footage of people turning to the camera and smiling. It brightens.

V.O.

Well now's your chance to feel better! By donating your vital organs to Ruth Bader Ginsburg!

FADE IN:

Stock footage of RBG.

TITLE: GIVE RUTH BADER GINSBURG YOUR ORGANS

V.O.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg is a national treasure. And we know every time her name trends you think to yourself...

CUT TO:

Footage of people crying, wailing in despair, pounding fists etc.

V.O.

Oh god, oh no, please, no! Please be alive, Ruth! Damn you, 2020, damn you to HEEEEEELLLLLLLLLL!

CUT BACK TO:

Bright positive stock footage of people happily cuddling on couches, riding bikes, having dinner, etc.

V.O.

But when you donate your spare kidney to a supreme court justice who can truly slap Kavanaugh around like the little b*tch he is, you'll feel so much better! Sure it sucks that we have to pin all our hopes on one octogenerian who works full time because our country is collapsing under the weight of rising fascism and a political party hell-bent on taking us back to the 1800's... But hey, what are our other options?

TITLE: GIVE RUTH YOUR HEART (JOKING, BUT NOT REALLY?)

CUT TO:

People eating junk food, drinking liquor.

V.O.

Let's face it. You're not really taking care of your body. So why not give a sliver of liver to a woman who can uphold democratic norms and pump some serious iron?

CUT TO:

Footage of Stephen working out with RBG. (3/21/2018)

V.O.

I mean, look at this shlub next to Ruth. The least he could've done is given her a lung. So call now or visit our website, and let's give Ruth everlasting life, because... Seriously, guys, we need her.

**TITLE:
CALL 1-800-GIV-RUTH
WWW.RUTHGETSYOURBONESTOO.COM**

V.O.

(quickly)

Paid for by the people of America, who have about 650 million kidneys, just sayin'.

How Many Times Do I Have To Say I'm Not A Nazi?
(Originally published on McSweeney's on June 4th 2019)
(Inspired by right-wing pundits)

I'm not a nazi.

How many times do I have to say this? 3 times? 27? Every single time someone accuses me? I'd never get anything done!

How would you feel if you constantly—without a *single* break—had to declare your non-nazi-ness every time someone said you were a nazi?

You'd be denying your nazi ties all day, every day! It's ridiculous.

Just because I converse with a lot of nazis, and a lot of murderous nazis cite me in their manifestos, and all these nazis are retweeting and lifting me up, does NOT make me a nazi. It just means, for whatever reason, nazis REALLY enjoy my thoughts and the way I express them.

Think about it this way: if you constantly talked about how a whole group of people should be blamed for things you made up, but in a thinly veiled and dog-whistley kind of way that relays the message to an unhinged fringe movement, while simultaneously shielding you through semantics and gymnastics-level word twisting, would that make *you* a nazi?

Because it doesn't make me one.

Am I supposed to say I'm not a nazi *every* time I gain a nazi follower? Um, it's not my fault nazis love me. I wouldn't blame you for all your nazi followers.

I mean, where does it end, people? Am I going to have to answer for every white supremacist I retweet?

How many times do I have to say I'm not the Babadook?

Every time I haunt a widow and her traumatized child? Can you imagine the amount of time I could save by *not* having to say I'm not a babadook? I could use all that time saying I'm not a nazi. Sheez, guys, get a life already.

Your time could be better spent being productive rather than pointing out my babadook top hat, spindly arms, and sweet floating bod. Maybe focus on yourselves for once. It's getting pathetic.

Ok, so now every time I whisper the word 'babadook' in a raspy stunted voice you're going to say I'm "clearly a Babadook"? Well then I guess I can never win, because "baaaa...baaaa...dooook" is a *very* common expression.

How would you feel if every time you said ANYTHING people accused you of being a murderous entity hellbent on possessing a grieving mother? Not too good, huh? Maybe think twice before accusing people of being terrifying grief ghosts, plebes.

How many times do I have to say I'm not Itztlacoliuhqui, God Of Frost and Death?

Ok, so every time I hold a straw broom that symbolizes my wintery obligation to sweep away the dry debris of shedding life to make way for new growth—as is my cosmic duty—you're going to say I'm Itztlacoliuhqui? Unreal.

Well then by that standard I guess I'll never be able to *stop* saying I'm not the Aztec God of Cold and New Beginnings.

Can you imagine having to constantly fend off the accusation that you're the mythic god of the Thirteenth Day and eternal guardian of matter in its lifeless state? You'd never get *anything* done. These attacks have got to stop.

Frankly, you're all hysterical and irrational. Yes, I have an arrow through the head from an attempt to punish the God of Dawn for his arrogance, but are you seriously going to judge me by the way I look? I thought all you guys were against that. Hypocrites.

Who's the judgmental one now?

How many times do I have to say I'm not the Annihilating Force of Antimatter?

So because *you* inferred that I'm the mirror representation of all matter in the known universe, that means I *must* be anti-matter? Wow. You have quite the imagination.

I may have openly talked about how I can cause a nuclear-level explosion if I come into contact with matter, but since when does acting exactly like antimatter automatically make a person antimatter?

Maybe you're shocked I'm pro free speech around the subject of antimatter. And sure, I act and think like an unknowable energy that can level a major city with just one gram of my being, but that doesn't mean I condone the actions and words of antimatter.

In fact, just you thinking that means you're anti-antimatter. You're the problem. It's truly disgusting and I take zero pleasure in pointing out the bigotry you display when you point out my true nature. You're such a nazi.