

Why Satire and Journalism are Two Different Games

By [Elizabeth DeOrnellas](#)

Really interesting debate on satire versus journalism, from my current favorite TV satirist, [John Oliver](#), and one of the most [badass](#) journalists currently working.

I see both sides. I understand Ramos' point: What John Oliver is doing is different. It's really cool to see someone ditch the accepted Late Night format and practice actual long-form reporting. His staff does a ton of research. That's awesome; it enables them to tackle really complex issues in an accessible way.

That said, Oliver is a comedian. He is paid to make people laugh. He will lose his contract with HBO if the suits that run the network feel that he is losing his audience. Journalists are paid to be read. They have to be interesting (which is why every serious journalist now has a Twitter feed - if you can't engage with a young audience, you're not going to make it in today's media world), but they're not paid to be funny.

There is nothing funny about a Mexican American journalist being kicked out of a press conference by a Presidential candidate who is racist. Trump can pretend there's a line between expressing racist views and being a racist; I think that's a stupid semantic debate when you are presenting yourself as someone who is capable of running a country. A large, ethnically diverse, globally important country. Trump is also a misogynist. Watch the above [video](#) again, and this time focus on what he says about [Megyn Kelly](#).

Kelly and I come from different worlds politically (and we have different views on the value of Fox News). However, I respect that Kelly is not [Ann Coulter](#). Coulter is one of my least favorite people. She throws rocks and starts fires to fuel book sales. In her mind, I'm sure she believes she is saving America. I believe that her brand of partisan flame-throwing is the epitome of everything that is wrong with modern American politics. She's not exactly in favor of bipartisan consensus. Or compromise. Or listening.

Kelly is a journalist. She legitimately tries to ask tough questions. She does research. She does not deserve to be called a bimbo on Twitter. A Presidential candidate should not be calling anyone a bimbo. Unless you're talking about a fictional character, you should not be using that word at all. *(The word "ditzzy" is OK - you have to have a way to describe mentally blonde moments. Sorry blondes, I love you, and I use that phrase to describe myself as well, because I have a lot of those moments. I'm also a natural brunette and a spiritual redhead - Irish Catholic family roots. We kid*

because we love, right? That said, a Presidential candidate should not be calling anyone a ditz, either. Especially not when you're a Presidential candidate and you're talking about a fellow politician or a journalist. Respect the job.)