

DRAMA AND COMEDY

When crafting a show, it helps to know exactly what makes a situation either dramatic or comedic. A situation is **dramatic** when something is at stake for the main character and when the main character must make a choice based on what is at stake. Consider movies like *The Godfather*, *Sophie's Choice*, *Casablanca*, *Big Night* and others. What's at stake? What is decided? What is the result?

A situation is **funny** when the main character has a strong attitude toward something mundane or miniscule. We laugh when he or she reacts hugely to something the rest of us consider to be small.

Consider each situation and, to make it dramatic, **raise the stakes** and **mandate a choice**:

Less Dramatic	More Dramatic
<p>A woman will be mad if her husband comes home from work late because she prefers punctuality.</p> <p>Her husband knows this and decides to come home on time.</p>	<p>A woman will lose her _____ if her husband comes home from work late because _____.</p> <p>Her husband knows this and he decides to _____.</p>
<p>A father will be upset with his son if his son dates a Protestant because he is Catholic, and he prefers to continue the family legacy.</p> <p>The son knows this and decides to tell the girl politely that he is not interested in a second date.</p>	<p>A father will _____ if his son dates a _____ because _____.</p> <p>The son knows this and he decides to _____.</p>
<p>Create a situation:</p>	<p>Make it more dramatic:</p>

Consider each situation and, to make it comedic, **heighten the emotion** and **diminish the matter**.

Less Comedic	More Comedic
A woman cries because someone dies.	A woman howls because she has lost her husband's favorite brown button.
An old man cheers because he wins the lottery.	An old man _____ because he _____ _____.
A groom smiles because a stripper approaches and offers him a lap dance.	A groom _____ because a _____ approaches and offers him a _____.
Create a situation	Make it more comedic:

In addition to high emotions for small matters, you can increase comedy also by **changing the locale** and/or the **consequences**.

Consider your current message, mask, milieu and mood. Are there changes you can make to heighten either the drama or the comedy?
