

Understanding Your Show - The Simpsons

What specific locations/places does your comedy idea reference or include or reference?

America, Suburbia, nuclear plant, run down bar, family home...

What specific professions, activities or hobbies does your comedy idea include or reference?

Nuclear plant employees, clowns, convenience store owners, teachers, bar owners, drinking, skateboarding, playing music, bullying...

What shows have influenced it?

Early comedy animations, The Flintstones, Raiders of the Lost Ark, Star Wars, pop culture, Cheers

What other shows is it similar too?

Futurama, Family Guy, South Park

What, if any, is the political view of the show?

Liberal leaning, without a strong political focus

What effect do you want your show to have on it's audience (aside from making them laugh).

E.g. make them consider a new perspective, introduce them to an untold story etc.

Extract humour from the flaws of characters and reinforce the importance of family, community and friendship

What does it champion?

Family support and values

What/who does it poke fun at?

Dysfunctional family dynamic, drinking culture (Moe's bar), fast food, laziness, mob mentality, school education

What specific life experiences does it portray?

Homer - being trapped in a job you hate and not being able to do what you want (watch TV and drink beer)

Marge - desperately trying to keep a family together, being a housewife

Bart - being rebellious, having a know it all sibling, struggling at school

Lisa - feeling like a fish out of water in your family

How do you define the relationships in your show?

Homer/Marge - Loving, tolerant, Marge tries to reign in Homer's impulses

Homer/Bart - Volatile, sometimes playful, sometimes angry. Bart sees his Dad as uncool

Etc...

What are the defining characteristics of your characters?

Homer - Lazy, buffoon, charming

Marge - Loyal, hard-working

Bart - Rebellious, cunning

Lisa - Intelligent, outsider

etc...

What ethnic/social group story does it tell?

White lower-middle class families