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Engaging Students through Literacy Activities: The Beau's Head
Recommended for use with this number of students: 30 or less at a time
Content Area: English and Composition Grade Level: 12th
Match to Georgia Standards: RL.1, RL.4, RL.6, W.2, W.10

This passage and activity would be used as a part of a unit on the Enlightenment and Restoration and Satire. Students would already be well-versed in what satire is and what devices a satirist uses.

Students will first examine a picture entitled "Old Beau Dixon." They would write down their reaction to the photo, and we would discuss what a beau is.

Then they would read a passage by Joseph Addison called "The Dissection of a Beau's Head." They should annotate in the margins by the underlined passages and indicate what Addison actually means versus what he says.

Then, in groups, they revise the picture of the Beau's Head to include symbols, colors, and notes about what he actually is versus how he looks.

Finally, as a part of the culminating performance task, students would write their own "Dissection of _____'s Head" using a modern-day person or stereotype in order to show that they can write satire. They would decorate a head to accompany their project.