**FOR INSTRUCTORS**

*The Office* Season 3, Episode 12 “Traveling Salesman”: Audience Awareness Exercise

In order to teach this, you have to have access to this episode, which I get through Netflix.

For the portion of the student handout entitled “Review Questions on the Show,” I show the following *Office* clips. Some of them are comical, and some deeply emotional.

Fire Drill: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gO8N3L_aERg&t=66s>

CPR Instruction: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ssIY8NYwvh4>

Goodbye, Michael: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ALsR-oWKAk> (An interesting fact about this scene—actor Steve Carrol was actually surprised by the other cast members with this impromptu song, so his reaction is sincere to him leaving the show. I discuss with my students how this scene would have been different if it were scripted.)

Jim and Dwight Heart-to-Heart: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVhwadprVk0>

I also usually show the “Jim and Pam” DVD from the end of the show and either Michael or Dwight’s marriage proposal—however, if you don’t have full access to the show it may be difficult to find these clips via YouTube.

We then discuss the ways that comedy appeals or doesn’t appeal to certain audiences, and how a comedic show can work in multiple layers to be tragic, uplifting, etc., and we discuss how the show accomplishes this through various rhetorical strategies.

For the take-home portion, I show the first fourteen minutes or so of the episode, as the rest of the episode is about subplots that don’t apply to our discussion. We then briefly discuss the episode (which depends on the amount of class time that remains), and the students answer the take-home questions on their own time to be returned at the beginning of the next class.