**Overview:**

Comparing the similarities between the culture of stand-up comedy and the aspects of philosophy. And how both have strengthened society’s ability to analyze things in terms of asking the right questions.

Throughout countless centuries, philosophers have used many different methods to convey their messages to the public. Whether it be through straightforward scholarly preaching or acting as a town buffoon to allow their impact to go unnoticed until long after their death. Whatever the form used, they all have similar tactics to achieve their goals. They first pronounce their theory, expressing this by leading you through their thought process. Once you are in the right state of mind, philosophers will test different ways of perceiving the aforementioned theory by stretching the bounds of what is standard thought. They will present lines of thought that can alter your perception because without their guide this thought path would never have been traversed. These sorts of epiphanies can massively change one’s way of life, as humans commonly get stuck in their ways and need help seeing things from different perspectives. Philosophers help society from becoming too mundane by keeping their pupils intrigued with more than mere survival. They serve as a median between the monumental index of knowledge and the common folk of their time; again, emulated vastly different with each philosopher. The only thing that matters though is not how they got you to think in a certain way, it is the fact they were able to get you to think about it in the first place. A great linguistic, either through words or action, can implant seeds of thought that blossom in your mind, truly putting you in a place of understanding; like you were the creator of the thought to begin with.

Speaking of great linguistics, stand-up comedians must be on top of their language game, as the audience needs to be on the same page or risk being left out of the joke. Chris rock explains that “A lot of comedians have great jokes that don’t work because the audience doesn’t understand the premise…If I set this premise up right, this joke will always work” (HBO talking funny 2018). Feelings and taste aside, setting up precursors are crucial to allow proper evaluation of the joke. Just like the philosopher, pronouncing the thought is the most important step because it tries to justify whatever follows. But once the thought synchronizes with the audience, it gives the comedian power to subvert preconceived notions. While in control, they know exactly where the audience thought process will go. Like a boxer predicting your next punch, they can dictate the fight in an unexpected direction; setting you up for a punch line you would never expect. Similar to a fighter, comedians provoke thought by pushing us to revaluate our way of thinking as there will always be more than one way of tackling an issue, even if it’s not apparent at the moment.

In brief, the varying ways philosophers and comedians carry themselves are merely vessels for greater truth. Each uses different methods to achieve one's goal of exploring topics, but also, they in of themselves are just ways of expression. On a scale, comedy is more widely approachable, and philosophy is usually taken more seriously but both serve the same purpose.