

APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF COORDINATOR, COMEDY CLUB	
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Question 1

Event Ideation

*Last year, Comedy Club conducted one Litsoc Event-Couch Potatoes, in the odd semester. It was an **improv based game**, with a combination of Mad Ads and Whose Line is it Anyway based games. One issue contestants had, was with the somewhat ambiguous nature of the judging, with the judges being the sole deciders into what was considered the funniest. Nevertheless, it was enjoyable for most who took part, and in all likelihood, we plan to conduct it or a variant of it next year.*

Your task is to come up with **two or three more events** that we can conduct. Make them **fun** and try coming up with as **objective a judging scale** as possible. You won't be penalised for the latter.

Think about the nature of the event. Should it be **improv based** too? Could it be a prepared **skit competition**? If so, how would you differentiate it from thespian club events? Could it be online, like a **Meme War**? If so, how would you judge? You don't have to answer all these, these are lines you could think along.

Muted dialogs

We will play a famous scene from a movie, series, game, porno and the video will be muted. A team of two will have to come up with dialogs to match what is being shown on screen in the most humorous and fitting way possible. Extra points if they can fake the mallu accent right. Minus 10 if they are actually mallus.

Honest interviews

The participant will have to interview/ be interviewed by his mate or a person from the rival team. We will make the questions and it will be obnoxious and inappropriate as it can be. The

response to the questions will have to be dank funny or else its quits. We can throw in a few trump cards that the players can use. Like the “ auto-repeat” card where the answer to the question would have to be the same as the last one and the person asking the question can change the question to make it as funny as possible.

The judging criteria will be best left at the hands of the judge. An another option is to do an 8-mile like crowd voting scheme where if it is a 1vs 1 competition(Like a rap face off) the person who gets more noise from the crowd will be judged the winner. But the problem of this is that, freshies who are looking to establish themselves will feel intimidated that since the seniors know each other, they will get more cheers by default and hence might feel a bit discouraged.

I think the best way to differentiate from thespian is by doing exactly what thespian is doing, but making a spoof of it. If thespian is doing “ 12 years a slave”. We will try to hold our written play competition 2 weeks after that. And anyone can come up with a spoof of what they saw. Like “ 12 years a shave” . It would be super exciting as the anti-establishment and anti- high society people will get a platform to showcase their frustration and their talents in a stage where we are allowed to make mistakes and not conform to the way things are done in that circle. It will turn our club into a subaltern thinking sphere where satire and sarcasm will be used to point out the wider disparities in society which manifests itself in insti in the form of this divide between the high society and the rest. (Shit, 1 year in HS and I am already writing like I am going to jail. Long live the revolution)

Publicity and PR

It is imperative to attract a crowd composed of both interested performers and of passive audience members. If this isn't done, it might lead to

- *Low enthusiasm among people to join the club because (s)he hasn't heard/ been to any event organised by the club so far*
- *Low turnout during your events (which further minimises the chance of getting future members).*

Therefore, outline **possible strategies** that the club can adopt to further its reach on **social media** and **on the ground** through various other publicity mediums to attract the desired target audience and performers keeping in mind the club's image . Consider various **publicity stunts** or **PR stories** if needed. Feel free to go overboard with the ideas. Just keep us entertained.

A nice way to maintain online PR is by involving the audience in the form of Competitions.

➤ We can regularly conduct competitions like ‘meme making’ , ‘vine making’ , ‘fill the caption’ etc. and have the winning entries posted on the youtube channel and the

facebook page.

➤ If possible we can go overboard and the winner of one of these competitions can be given a free ticket to the fundraising event. Okay should have given a 'cliche alert'.

On ground:

- **Fundraising Campaign:**

➤ A grand event will be publicised throughout Chennai, a large enough auditorium would be booked and tickets will be sold through bookmyshow.

➤ The audience will be treated with performers ranging from amateur standup comedians (consisting of stud funny insti junta and other budding comedians in Chennai/Tamil Nadu/South India) to with famous/ experienced stand up comics and youtube sensations.

➤ The profit made will be donated for a good cause.

➤ Will boost the PR image of the club, provide a stage for amateur insti stand up comics and can open doors for collaboration with amateur/established comedians in and outside Chennai (like Enna da Rascalas , Daniel Fernandes, Kenny Sebastian etc)

Question 5

Content Moderation

Entities presenting comedy are often scrutinised for being “inappropriate” in the following ways-

- ***Offensive/ hurtful towards a race/group/personality***
- ***Containing Objectionable language***

To avoid such issues, the content sometimes undergoes a moderation process. Any entity which produces content or provides a platform to do so is, in some sense, expected to keep this in mind.

We would like to know your thoughts on this one. Do you think the open mics and other club working sessions require moderation? If yes, why? And how would you go about implementing it

or better put, what are your expectations from a moderation system for the content generated from the Comedy club of the institute? If no, why? And how would you safely risk doing this keeping in mind that the club members will solely be accountable if things go wrong, if they can that is?

As you might've guessed, this question has no outright wrong or right answer- so give some thought on this and let us know what your opinions are.

Ultimate importance will be given to the idea that is being attempted to communicate through a piece. If the content is just another no-brainer, curse-filled piece inherently propagating hate towards anything, we'll cut it down. On the other hand, if the content is a satire which requires curse words and sarcastic sexist remarks, provided the sarcasm is clear enough, does not propagate meaningless hateful stereotypes, we'll let it through.

2. The moderation required here doesn't follow clear-cut rules rather it is a shades-of-grey situation where the judgements will be based on nuance things. Just because the punchlines sound funny, we won't let the content go out and hurt people's sentiments in the name of free speech. Yes, we strive for free speech and open-mindedness but not stooping down enough to be insensitive and absent-minded. Again, quality and creativity of the idea communicated through the piece will be upheld at all times and we'll fight against all the odds to get a supercreative and intelligent idea communicated and at the same time cut the stems of unintelligent and hateful ideas even before they sprout flowers.