



*"If you want more people to stand for the anthem, change the song."
-- Roy Wood Jr.*

Write Comedy Like Roy Wood JR.



Background

Roy Wood Jr. is a Birmingham, Alabama–raised stand-up comedian, writer, and cultural commentator whose comedy is rooted in sharp logic, lived experience, and a journalist’s instinct for exposing hypocrisy.

After building a reputation as a fearless Southern comic willing to tackle race, politics, and American contradictions head-on, he rose to national prominence as a correspondent on *The Daily Show*, where his segments blended airtight arguments with punchlines that landed like conclusions, not just jokes.



Onstage, Wood's style is conversational but methodical—he often walks the audience through a premise step by step, reframing emotional or polarizing issues until the laugh feels inevitable rather than forced.

His comedy doesn't rely on outrage or shock; instead, it earns laughs by making the audience realize, *"Oh... yeah, that actually makes sense."*

Roy Wood Jr.'s father, Roy Wood Sr., was a **radio journalist and talk-radio host** in Birmingham, Alabama. He hosted *The Roy Wood Show*, a politically charged call-in program that focused on civil rights, race relations, and local power structures.

Growing up around that environment heavily influenced Roy Wood Jr.'s comedic DNA—especially his habit of breaking arguments down logically, anticipating counterpoints, and treating jokes like conclusions to a well-reasoned discussion rather than just punchlines.

Nobody Loves You - Opening





▶ Roy Wood Jr.: No One Loves You - Full Special

Analysis

The opening of “Nobody Loves You” gives you almost all you need to know about framing a comedy problem/solution type of bit. It’s a classic approach to stand-up.

1. State a Problem that we can all relate to.
2. Solve the problem with something simple, recognizable, slightly absurd, but completely logical.

**If your joke works only because it’s absurd, it’s weak.
If it works because it’s *technically correct*, it’s strong.**

Roy Wood in a Nutshell:
Technicality vs. Pragmatism

Precision	Pragmatism
Technically, the customer refund window closed two minutes ago.	Pragmatically, it’s best for business to violate that detail and serve the needs of the customer.

It could all boil down to:

Formally, we do this.

Emotionally we want to do the opposite.

Transcript

- If you want more people to stand for the anthem, change the song.



That's half the problem right there. It's just the lyrics to the anthem.

We can stand to any song. Patriotism is a feeling. Let's not forget that. Patriotism ain't no one song.

As long as we stand and agree that people died for us to kick it, we can do that to any song.

You can do that to Bruno Mars. What's more American than Bruno Mars?

They say America is a melting pot. Well, damn it, I want to stand to Bruno Mars. He literally looks like every race at the same time.

What's better than that? What's more American than us standing with a Hawaiian-Mexican-white- lesbian-Jewish man...

To honor the troops?

Ladies and gentlemen, we ask that you please rise as we sing our national anthem, "24 Karat Magic."

Remove your hats and put your pinkie rings to the moon at this time.

You mad about the damn anthem. Man, please. Let's be real about the anthem. First and foremost, the beat is wack.

It don't go hard. You love America, but you ain't downloaded the national anthem to your phone.

If you was at the club and the DJ started playing the national anthem, you'd be like, "What the fuck is wrong with this DJ?"

You ain't at the DJ booth, "Hey, man, play some of that patriotism shit. That's what I like. That's the jam."

I understand it's supposed to honor the country, but here's the thing people forget about the national anthem. It ain't even an original song.

It ain't original. It's based off a British song. It's the exact same as the British song,



and that's what you want people to stand up for? First of all, imagine that. Imagine whupping another country ass,

getting your freedom, and then to celebrate your freedom, you write a freedom song based on the song

of the country ass you just whupped. That don't even make no sense,

and now you running around telling stolen people in a stolen land that they should stand for a stolen song?

Come on, bro. That ain't how the game go. [cheers and applause]

Associative Listing

TOPIC: NATIONAL ANTHEM

2ND IDEA: MUSIC YOU LISTEN TO

SUB CATEGORIES: PEOPLE, PLACES, THINGS, WORDS, PHRASES, CLICHES, EVENTS, (DON'T FORGET OPPOSITES)

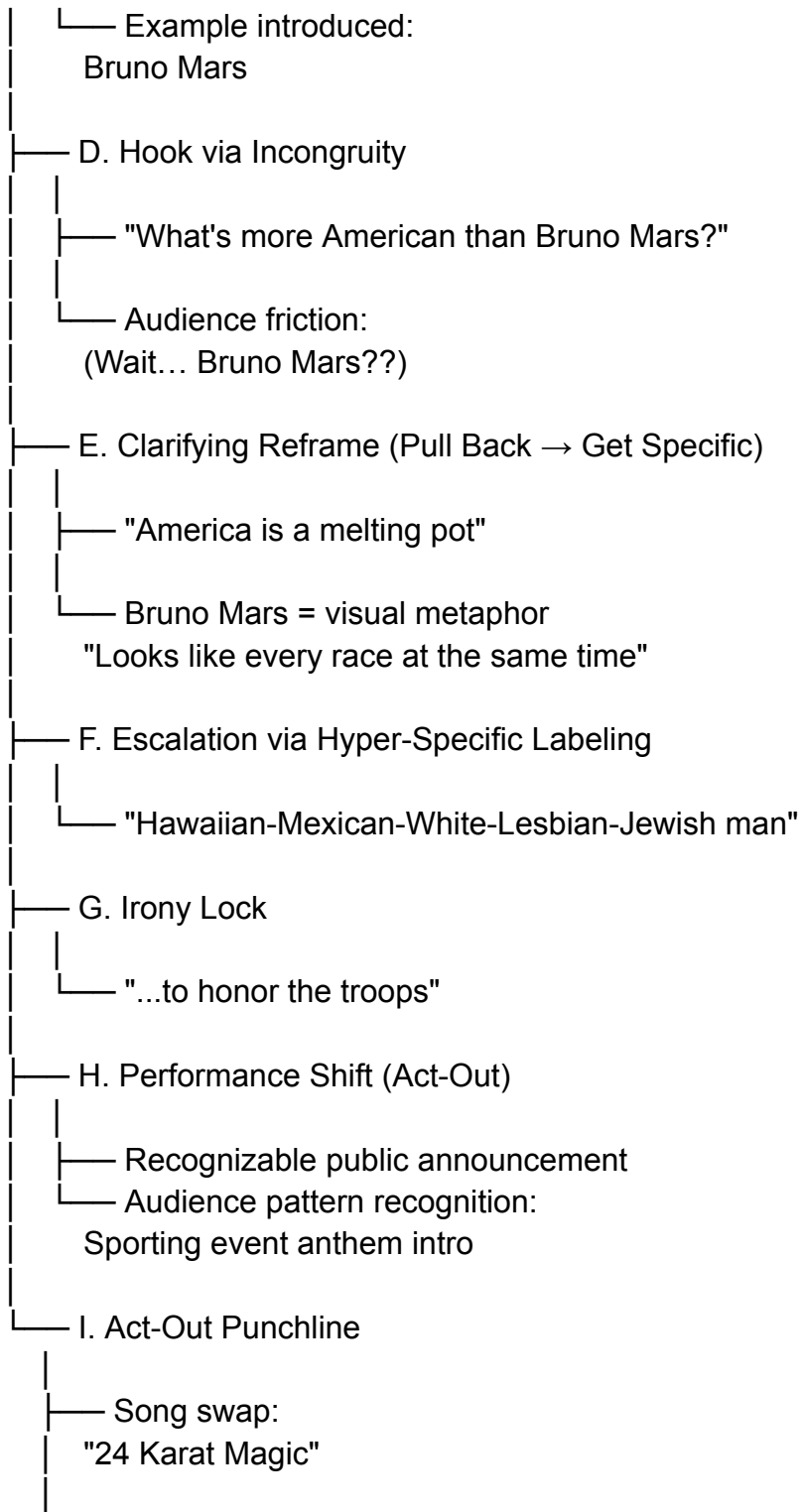
NATIONAL ANTHEM	POP/ROCK/R&B
Sing at Sporting Events	Download favorites to our phone
Stand	List Favorite Songs
"Ladies and Gentlemen we ask that you all rise as we sing our National Anthem"	Who's popular, middle of the road. Britney Spears, Bruno Mars, Taylor Swift
Patriotic	Country
Old, Tired, Not Original	Rock
It's a British Bar Drinking Song.	R&B



About War	Blues
Most Americans Don't know all the words	Hop-Hop
Most Americans Can't sing it. The song's range goes beyond what most people can sing. (almost a double octave)	Rap
Most Americans Don't know who wrote it.	Metal
The Star Spangled Banner	Top 40
Written by Francis Scott Key	Top 100 Billboard Hits
The Melody was stolen	
There are four verses (almost nobody knows that)	

ROOT THESIS (Cold Open / Provocation)

- A. **Problem Statement**
 - "People are mad others don't stand for the anthem"
 - Implicit assumption:
Standing = patriotism
- B. **Reframe (Simple Truth)**
 - Patriotism is a FEELING, not a SONG
 - We can stand to ANY song
- C. **Solution Proposal (Absurd-but-logical)**
 - "Change the song"





- Visual callback:
Pinky ring
- Instruction parody:
"Put your pinky finger to the moon"

Roy Wood Jr. Template

1. Start with a decisive opinion (no hedging)
2. Reframe the argument using a Simple Truth
3. Propose a solution that sounds wrong—but follows logic
4. Introduce a culturally loaded example
5. Justify it with specificity
6. Lock it in with irony
7. Pay it off with an act-out or role shift

Exercise: “Change the Thing”

Take something people argue about.

Start with:

“If you want people to stop complaining about ____, just change ____.”

Rules:

- The solution must be *technically logical*
- Use **one pop-culture example**
- End with a **recognizable public announcement or authority voice**



1. Tipping Culture

“If you want people to stop arguing about tipping, just build the tip into the price.”

2. School Dress Codes

“If you want students to stop breaking dress codes, stop pretending clothes affect learning.”

3. Airport Security

“If you want people to stop hating airport security, make it honest.”

4. Social Media Outrage

“If you want people to stop getting canceled online, stop acting like Twitter is a courtroom.”

5. Self Checkout

“If you want people to stop shoplifting at the self-checkout, stop treating your customers like unpaid employees.”

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Exercise: Audience Agreement Ladder

Goal: Practice earning permission before escalation.

Instructions:

Write a joke in **3-4 rungs**:



1. Universal agreement
2. Mild tension
3. Honest conclusion

Template:

- “We all agree that ____.”
- “But the weird part is ____.”
- “Which is why ____ doesn’t make sense.”
- And _____ should be the solution.

 Exercise 3: *Explain It Like You’re Right*

Goal: Replace punchline-chasing with clarity-chasing.

Instructions:

1. Take a hot-button issue.
2. Explain it **as calmly as possible** to a smart friend.
3. Highlight the line where logic collapses.
4. That collapse becomes the punch.

Target
Emotion



A ntagonism
S urprise
E xaggeration
R ealism
S uperiority

Exercise 4:

Watch this Roy Woods Jr. Clip - See if you can identify the patterns we drilled today.

 **Black Music Tells You Everything You Need to Know - Roy ...**

Remember sometimes the key is to pick a topic or category and build from that.

Get personal 1 on 1 Coaching with Jerry just follow [this link](#) to learn more!

