

## 9 - Top Ten Lists

Comedian David Letterman has perfected the top ten list as a funny form. You can use your research to make your own top ten lists. Here are some examples of titles: "*Top Ten Reasons Why You Wouldn't Want to be a Christian in Roman Times*"; "*Top Ten reasons I'd Rather Be a One-Celled Organism*"; "*Top Ten Reasons the World Can Not Be Round*"...etc.

The trick is to write a funny title then use your facts to bring the joke to life.

Tip: Jokes are funnier when they are stated indirectly. For example, let's say my poem was "*Top Ten Reasons I don't Want to Be a Cat.*" One reason could be my friend is a dog. But that's not as funny as writing, "My best friend's name is Fido." Be a little indirect and your audience will find the laugh. Also move from 10 to 1, stacking your better reasons near the end. Try mixing some straight facts with your funny ones.

### **Top Ten Reasons Why Columbus Discovered America**

- 10 He needed a job.
- 9 He was looking for the edge of the world.
- 8 He heard a rumor the Arawak were going to discover Spain and wanted to beat them to it.
- 7 He tried to discover Portugal but someone beat him to it.
- 6 He knew the state capital of Ohio would need a name.
- 5 He didn't. His boats did.
- 4 Queen Isabella had a passion for new continents.
- 3 He was sick of discovering his dirty apartment.
- 2 He wanted to find a shortcut to the West Indies.
- 1 He needed some gold to fill a tooth.

