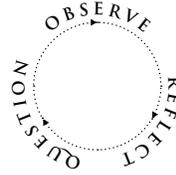


TEACHER'S GUIDE ANALYZING POLITICAL CARTOONS



Guide students with the sample questions as they respond to the primary source. Encourage them to go back and forth between the columns; there is no correct order.

OBSERVE

Have students identify and note details.

Sample Questions:

Describe what you see. · What do you notice first? · What people and objects are shown? · What, if any, words do you see? · What do you see that looks different than it would in a photograph? · What do you see that might refer to another work of art or literature? · What do you see that might be a symbol? · What other details can you see?

REFLECT

Encourage students to generate and test hypotheses about the source.

What's happening in the cartoon? · What was happening when this cartoon was made? · Who do you think was the audience for this cartoon? · What issue do you think this cartoon is about? · What do you think the cartoonist's opinion on this issue is? What methods does the cartoonist use to persuade the audience?

QUESTION

Have students ask questions to lead to more observations and reflections.

What do you wonder about...
who? · what? · when? · where? · why? · how?

FURTHER INVESTIGATION

Help students to identify questions appropriate for further investigation, and to develop a research strategy for finding answers.

Sample Question: What more do you want to know, and how can you find out?

A few follow-up activity ideas:

Beginning

Think about the point the cartoonist was trying to make with this cartoon. Were you persuaded? Why or why not?

Intermediate

Compare two political cartoons that are on the same side of an issue. Identify the different methods — like symbols, allusions, or exaggeration — that the two cartoons use to persuade their audience.

Advanced

Select a political cartoon. Think about the point of view of the cartoonist. Describe or draw how the cartoon might be different if it had been created by a cartoonist with a different point of view.

For more tips on using primary sources, go to

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers>

Cartoon Analysis Worksheet

Level 1

Visuals

Words (not all cartoons include words)

1. List the objects or people you see in the cartoon.

1. Identify the cartoon caption and/or title.

2. Locate three words or phrases used by the cartoonist to identify objects or people within the cartoon.

3. Record any important dates or numbers that appear in the cartoon.

Level 2

Visuals

Words

2. Which of the objects on your list are symbols?

4. Which words or phrases in the cartoon appear to be the most significant? Why do you think so?

3. What do you think each symbol means?

5. List adjectives that describe the emotions portrayed in the cartoon.

Level 3

A. Describe the action taking place in the cartoon.

Limit response for each question to 3 lines of text

B. Explain how the words in the cartoon clarify the symbols.

C. Explain the message of the cartoon.

D. What special interest groups would agree/disagree with the cartoon's message? Why?