**Introduction:** The COVID-19 pandemic is an ongoing crisis of historic proportions. Both within the United States and abroad, the pandemic has resulted in mass casualties, prompted responses of anxiety and hope, introduced novel changes into our daily lives, and intensified existing social challenges and inequities.

Political cartoonists have chronicled the pandemic through their artwork from its global outbreak in early 2020 all the way through today. Political cartoons not only reflect the events of the times, but also offer interpretations and express strong opinions about events and experiences. The cartoons you will be analyzing provide multiple avenues for exploring, remembering, and processing together the COVID-19 pandemic, a tragic and life-altering event in the history of the twenty-first century.

**Note:** Reflecting on the COVID-19 pandemic may be challenging or upsetting for those who have experienced its devastating effects. It is important to be sensitive to your classmates and the ways in which this may be a difficult topic to discuss.

Cartoonists use a variety of **techniques** to convey their ideas. These include:

- **Labels:** Cartoonists often identify or name certain things in their cartoons with words so that it is apparent what they represent.
- **Symbolism:** Cartoonists may use simple objects to represent larger ideas or concepts.
- **Analogy:** Cartoonists may compare a simple image or concept to a more complex situation in order to help the viewer understand the situation in a different way.
- **Irony:** Cartoonists may express an opinion on a topic by highlighting the difference between the way things are and the way things should, or are expected, to be.
- **Exaggeration:** Cartoonists may exaggerate objects, people, or ideas to make a point.
- **Stereotype:** Cartoonists may use a stereotype or generalization about a group of people (even though it may not be true about everyone, or anyone, in that group).

**Instructions:** Work with your group to analyze cartoons your teacher has assigned to you. You will be asked to identify the techniques each cartoonist used. The following questions will help guide your thinking.

- If the cartoonist used **labels**, what things in the cartoon are labeled? Why do you think the cartoonist chose to label those things?
- If the cartoonist used **symbolism**, what things in the cartoon are symbols? What do they stand for?
- If the cartoonist used an **analogy**, what two ideas or situations are compared? How does this comparison help the viewer see the complex situation in a different way?
- If the cartoonist used **irony**, what does the cartoonist show about the way things are? How does the cartoonist think things should be?
- If the cartoonist used **exaggeration**, what objects, people, or ideas are exaggerated? What point is made by exaggerating/distorting them?
Name: __________________________________________

Practice Cartoon

1. Observation
Describe the objects or people in the cartoon.

Describe the action taking place in the cartoon.

2. Identify at least two techniques that the cartoonist used and explain what ideas are conveyed through each technique.
   a.
   b.

3. What is the message of the cartoon?
2. Identify at least two techniques that the cartoonist used and explain what ideas are conveyed through each technique.
   a. 
   b. 

3. What is the message of the cartoon?
Group A: Cartoon #2

1. Observation
Describe the objects or people in the cartoon.

Describe the action taking place in the cartoon.

2. Identify at least two techniques that the cartoonist used and explain what ideas are conveyed through each technique.
   a. 
   b. 

3. What is the message of the cartoon?
2. Identify at least two techniques that the cartoonist used and explain what ideas are conveyed through each technique.
   a. 
   b. 

3. What is the message of the cartoon?
2. Identify at least two techniques that the cartoonist used and explain what ideas are conveyed through each technique.

   a.

   b.

3. What is the message of the cartoon?
1. **Observation**

Describe the objects or people in the cartoon.

2. Identify at least two techniques that the cartoonist used and explain what ideas are conveyed through each technique.
   
a. 

b. 

3. What is the message of the cartoon?
2. Identify at least two techniques that the cartoonist used and explain what ideas are conveyed through each technique.

a. 

b. 

3. What is the message of the cartoon?

1. Observation
Describe the objects or people in the cartoon.

Describe the action taking place in the cartoon.
2. Identify at least two techniques that the cartoonist used and explain what ideas are conveyed through each technique.
   a. 
   b. 

3. What is the message of the cartoon?
2. Identify at least two techniques that the cartoonist used and explain what ideas are conveyed through each technique.

a.

b.

3. What is the message of the cartoon?
1. Observation
Describe the objects or people in the cartoon.

Describe the action taking place in the cartoon.

2. Identify at least two techniques that the cartoonist used and explain what ideas are conveyed through each technique.

a.

b.

3. What is the message of the cartoon?
Group E: Cartoon #2

1. Observation
Describe the objects or people in the cartoon.

Describe the action taking place in the cartoon.

2. Identify at least two techniques that the cartoonist used and explain what ideas are conveyed through each technique.
   a. 
   b. 

3. What is the message of the cartoon?
Group F: Cartoon #1

1. Observation
Describe the objects or people in the cartoon.

Describe the action taking place in the cartoon.

2. Identify at least two techniques that the cartoonist used and explain what ideas are conveyed through each technique.

a.

b.

3. What is the message of the cartoon?
1. Observation
Describe the objects or people in the cartoon.

Describe the action taking place in the cartoon.

2. Identify at least two techniques that the cartoonist used and explain what ideas are conveyed through each technique.
   a. 
   b. 

3. What is the message of the cartoon?
Group G: Cartoon #1

1. Observation
Describe the objects or people in the cartoon.

Describe the action taking place in the cartoon.

2. Identify at least two techniques that the cartoonist used and explain what ideas are conveyed through each technique.

   a.

   b.

3. What is the message of the cartoon?
Group G: Cartoon #2

1. Observation
Describe the objects or people in the cartoon.

Describe the action taking place in the cartoon.

2. Identify at least two techniques that the cartoonist used and explain what ideas are conveyed through each technique.
   a. 
   b. 

3. What is the message of the cartoon?
Group H: Cartoon #1

1. Observation
Describe the objects or people in the cartoon.

Describe the action taking place in the cartoon.

2. Identify at least two techniques that the cartoonist used and explain what ideas are conveyed through each technique.
   a.

   b.

3. What is the message of the cartoon?
2. Identify at least two techniques that the cartoonist used and explain what ideas are conveyed through each technique.

a. 

b. 

3. What is the message of the cartoon?