

Political Cartoon Techniques

Name:

Introduction: Cartoonists use a variety of methods to convey their ideas. The techniques they use include:

Labels: Cartoonists often identify or name certain things in their cartoons so that it is clear what the things represent.

Symbolism: Cartoonists use simple objects to represent larger ideas or concepts.

Analogy: Cartoonists 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 express an opinion on a topic by highlighting the difference between the way things are and the way things should be, 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 is not true about everyone, or perhaps anyone, in that group).

Instructions: Work with your group to analyze your assigned cartoons. 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 them?
- If the cartoonist used **stereotypes**, what stereotypes are presented? How do these add to the message of the cartoon?