

I can analyze political cartoons by identifying ways point of view can be detected.

Standards for ELA and Literacy in History/
Social Studies

NEXT GENERATION STANDARD

Draw on information from multiple print or digital sources, demonstrating the ability to locate an answer to a question quickly or to solve a problem efficiently.

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Connect: In our last social studies lesson, we began to explore how the OAS deals with issues facing the Western Hemisphere. We have also begun to explore important topics like global warming and privatization and access to clean water. Today, we will look more closely at political cartoons. A political cartoon is a cartoon that makes a point about a political issue or event. You will then create your own to express your feelings on an important issue.

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What is a political cartoon?

A political cartoon is a cartoon that makes a point about a political issue or event.

What topics do political cartoons address?

Could include economics, politics, social issues/events, prominent individuals.

How can you tell what the message of the political cartoon is?

By observing and analyzing the images and text.

What is a thesis?

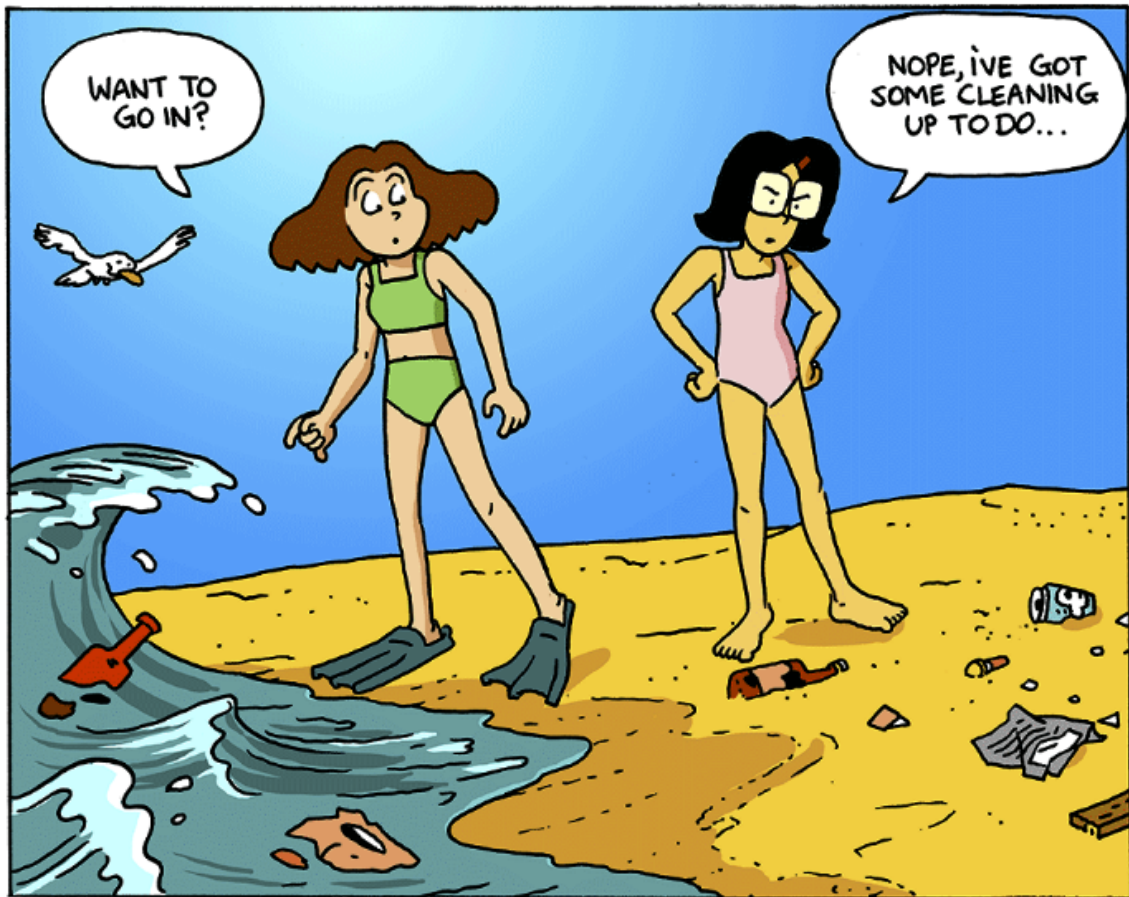
A main idea put forward for discussion, such as in a paragraph, an essay, or a cartoon.

What is point of view?

A person's belief or judgment on an issue.

How might point of view affect a political cartoonist?

A cartoonist will be guided by his or her point of view. Cartoonists might only express their own beliefs on an issue, or they might take the point of view of others into consideration.



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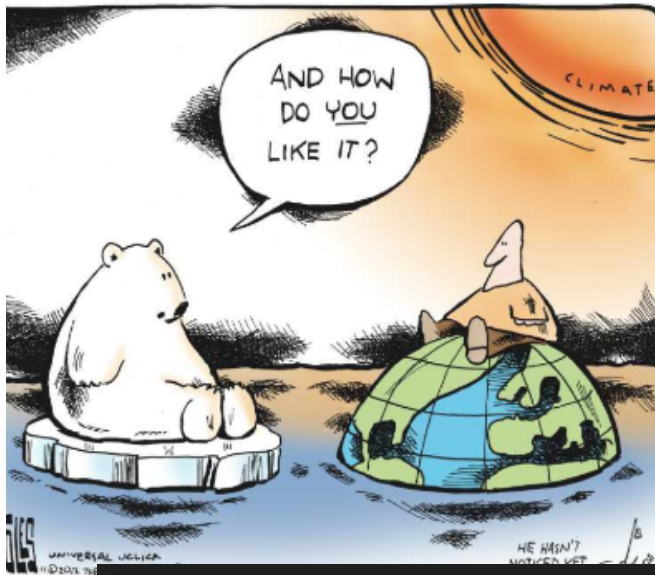
What really scares kids...



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Political cartoons use pictures and words to denounce (put down) a political action or person. They use words and symbols to let the reader identify characters. They use exaggeration and symbolism to get their message across. The following are all the persuasive techniques cartoonists use:

- *Symbolism:* Cartoonists use simple objects or symbols to stand for larger concepts or ideas. After you identify the symbols in a cartoon, think about what the cartoonist intends each symbol to stand for.



Exaggeration/Caricature: Sometimes cartoonists overdo it or exaggerate by using caricature. The physical characteristics of people are things are exaggerated in order to make a point. When you study a cartoon, look for any characteristics that seem overdone or overblown. (Facial characteristics and clothing are some of the most commonly exaggerated characteristics.



Visit

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- Labeling: Cartoonists often label objects or people to make it clear exactly what they stand for. Watch out for different labels that appear in a cartoon and ask yourself why the cartoonist chose to label that particular person or object. Does the label make the meaning of the object clearer?
- Analogy: This is a comparison between two unlike things that share some characteristics. By comparing a complex issue with a more familiar one, cartoonists see the issue in a different light. After you have studied a cartoon for a while, try to decide what the cartoon's main analogy is. What two situations does the cartoon compare? Once you understand the main analogy, decide if this analogy makes the cartoonist's point clearer to you

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- Irony: Irony refers to a situation in which the outcome is the opposite of what you expected or means the opposite of what was intended. For example, an animal rights activist wearing leather shoes is ironic because leather comes from animals and you wouldn't expect an animal rights activist to use leather. Irony is the difference between the way things are and the way things should be, or the way they are expected to be. See if you can find the irony in the situation the cartoon is depicting. Think about what point the irony might be intended to emphasize. Does the irony help the cartoonist express his or her opinion more effectively? For instance, there was once a two panel political cartoon. In the first panel, the kids were watching the news that featured a government report on how violent video games are being marketed to children. In the second, panel, the two kids are playing a video game in which one kid says, "You get 400 points to blow his head off."

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Here are the five questions you will answer for each cartoon you choose to analyze:

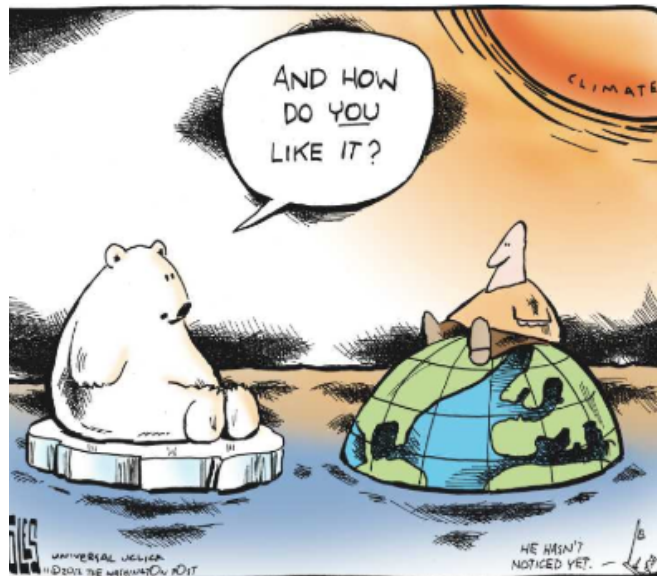
1. What is the event or issue that inspired the cartoon?
2. Are there any real people in the cartoon? Who is portrayed in the cartoon?
3. Are there any symbols in the cartoon?
4. What is the cartoonist's opinion about the topic portrayed in the cartoon?
5. Do you agree or disagree with the cartoonist's opinion? Why or why not?

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Turn and talk to your partner about the following cartoon and reflect on these questions:

Here are the five questions you will answer for each cartoon you choose to analyze:

1. What is the event or issue that inspired the cartoon?
2. Are there any real people in the cartoon? Who is portrayed in the cartoon?
3. Are there any symbols in the cartoon?
4. What is the cartoonist's opinion about the topic portrayed in the cartoon?
5. Do you agree or disagree with the cartoonist's opinion? Why or why not?



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You will choose two cartoons from the packet to analyze and answer five questions for each cartoon. You will then create your own single or double paneled cartoon that denounces (puts down) a current situation and makes an important point. Or it can strongly advocate for a point you wish to make. Your cartoon must utilize at least one of the techniques we discussed. Your cartoon should be based on an important issue in the news including:

- Global warming
- Economic Hardship
- Access to clean water
- Violence in schools
- Violence on television/Too much television?
- Enough down-time for kids?
- Economy
- Childhood obesity
- Environment

Visit *It's No Laughing Matter*: http://lcweb2.loc.gov/learn/features/political_cartoon/index.html

[And Mike Cagles'ccartoon website](#)

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You will also create your own political cartoon.

Name: _____

Creating a Political Cartoon

Directions: Create a political cartoon showcasing current events. The cartoon will be graded on the criteria below and the idea and effort put forth will trump artistic ability. If you are drawing stick figures, make them two-dimensional and draw clothes. Take time and care with your illustrations.

Requirements:

- ☐ Your cartoon must show a current event.
- ☐ Your cartoon must have a clear opinion showcased and not just be a picture presentation of the concept.
- ☐ Your cartoon must be original and not copied from a cartoon you've seen in class or one that was found on the Internet.
- ☐ Utilize all of the space on the paper.
- ☐ Provide a clear and bolded title at the top of the cartoon.
- ☐ Write an explanation of your cartoon in the space provided below.
- ☐ This rubric, with your name on the top, must be stapled to and submitted with your political cartoon (have it assembled before class or it is LATE).

Explanation:

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STUDENT CREATED POLITICAL CARTOON RUBRIC

	4	3	2	1
Knowledge of Concepts	The political cartoon demonstrates higher level understanding of an issue	The political cartoon demonstrates an understanding of an issue.	The political cartoon demonstrates recognition of an issue but not a clear understanding.	The political cartoon demonstrates that the student is still struggling to understand the issue.
Visual Expression of Ideas	The political cartoon is rich with symbolism. The message goes beyond a statement and reflects an in-depth opinion.	The political cartoon contains symbolism. The message goes beyond a statement but does not reflect an in-depth opinion.	The political cartoon demonstrates little symbolism. The message does not really go beyond a statement and does not reflect an in-depth opinion.	The political cartoon demonstrates little to no symbolism. The message does not really go beyond a statement and does not reflect an in-depth opinion.
Organization and Preparation	The political cartoon is of excellent quality and it is apparent that the student spent time in preparing it.	The political cartoon is of good quality and it is apparent that the student spent some time.	The political cartoon is of fair quality and seems rushed.	The political cartoon appears to have been hastily created and appears messy or disorganized.
Directions	All directions are followed.	One direction was not followed.	Two directions were not followed.	Three or more directions were not followed.

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Turn and talk to your partner about what topic you will be creating a cartoon about and how you will do it.

INDEPENDENT: Get started with your analysis and then you can move on to creation.

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MID WORKSHOP. DON'T FORGET TO USE THE QUESTIONS TO GUIDE YOUR WORK. LET'S STOP AND LISTEN TO _____ SO THEY CAN TELL US WHAT THEY'RE DOING.

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Let's come together
for a final share.

*What are your thoughts on today's strategy:

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Who would like to share what
they tried to do today as a
POLITICAL SCIENTIST?

