

Political Cartoons from the 2008 Election

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Aim:

How can we evaluate political cartoons from the 2008 election?

Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Explain 2 ways political cartoons influence the public debate on issues.
- Examine 2 political cartoons using the analysis form developed by the National Archives.
(http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/cartoon_analysis_worksheet.pdf)

Level: High School

Do Now:

1. What are two major stories in the news today?
2. What are the symbols for the Democratic and Republican parties?

Discussion Points:

- Are people influenced by political cartoons today?
- How do political cartoons add to the public debate on important issues?
- Do the political cartoons in the newspaper always reflect the point of view of the newspaper?
- What should you look for when you interpret the meaning of a political cartoon?

News Literacy Concepts:

Propaganda versus the news, Verification, Fairness, Cognitive Dissonance

Handout 1

<http://hti.osu.edu/opper>

- Stereotypes and Caricatures - Fairness.
- Historic Cartoons: Propaganda / Verification.
- 2008 Election: Review some of the issues and candidates. Explain Cognitive Dissonance.

Handout 2

- Political Cartoons from the 2008 election.

Handout 3

- Historic Cartoons

Handout 4

- Cartoon Analysis form developed by the National Archives.

Cooperative Learning Activity:

- As a group you will examine and present your analysis on a political cartoon from the 2008 election.
- As an individual you will examine one historic cartoon and explain your analysis to the group.
- You will use the evaluation form developed by the National Archives for your analysis. Your individual and group work will be collected.
- You will have 15 minutes to complete your assignment.

Group Presentations Summary Activity:

1. Using political cartoons from the 2008 election identify and explain two issues during this election.
2. Describe one political cartoon from the 2008 election and explain how it created a favorable or unfavorable view of a candidate.

Final Cartoon: Post-Election 2008

Homework Assignment:

Political Cartoons

- Use the evaluation form to analyze a political cartoon in the newspaper.
- Create a political cartoon using an issue in the news.
- Explain the issues and the symbolism in your cartoon in two paragraphs.

Project:

Pick one famous cartoonist and examine how his caricature of a president has changed over time.

Recommended Links:

The Association of American Editorial Cartoonists
www.nieonline.com/aaec/

Harpweek
www.education.harpweek.com

Ohio State University Cartoon Library and Museum
www.cartoon.osu.edu

National Archives – Educational Worksheets
<http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/>