

CARTOON ANALYSIS WORKSHEET

Maine State Museum 2019

Political cartoons use the following main methods to persuade readers. Write down which elements you see in the cartoon (not all cartoons will have them all).

Caption	<i>A kind of label, usually at the top or bottom of a cartoon. Uses words to reinforce the images.</i>
Labeling	<i>Do you see words in certain parts of the drawing? How do the words chosen impact the cartoon's meaning and tone?</i>
Exaggeration or Distortion	<i>Are there unrealistic artistic changes in the size or shape of the images in the cartoon?</i>
Symbolism	<i>Are there any objects or designs that stand for some other thing, person, or idea?</i>
Stereotypes or caricatures	<i>These are simplistic views of a person or group, often portraying them in an exaggerated and often insulting way.</i>
Humor and Irony	<i>Does the cartoonist try to make people laugh, and how? An ironic cartoon often uses words and images to express the opposite of the literal meaning, or the opposite of how things should be.</i>
Artistic Style or Design	<i>Is the drawing detailed and formal or more of a sketch? Does the style of drawing affect the feel and meaning of the cartoon? How is color used?</i>

OVERALL QUESTIONS:

1. What issue is this political cartoon about?
2. What is the cartoonist's opinion on this issue?
3. Is this cartoon persuasive? Why or why not?

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