Analyzing Political Cartoons: Student Worksheet

Identifying the Main Idea

1. Describe the cartoon. What key ideas, words or pictures are evident?

2. What key person(s) are targeted in the cartoon? (if any)

3. How has the artist depicted these people? Consider these questions: Are they distorted in any way? Does the artist’s portrayal of characters cast them in a negative or positive light?

4. Identify and explain any symbols incorporated in the cartoon.

5. Identify and explain captions, labels, titles and/or speech bubbles. How do these contribute to the cartoon’s message?

6. What impact and/or reaction is the artist attempting to trigger?

Analyzing the Method Used by the Artist

Identify and explain the use of:

a. Irony (the use of words or pictures to express something different from, and often opposite of their literal meaning)

b. Exaggeration (representation as greater than is actually the case; overstatement)

c. Juxtaposition (the state of being side by side or close together, in a figurative sense)