

Political Cartoon Lesson Plan Ideas and Rubric

I'll explain what all of these terms and conceptual elements are in class and show examples.

Editorial Cartoon	A cartoon that makes a point about some issue in the news.
Political Cartoon	A cartoon that expresses opinions about politics or government.
Caricature	A representation that exaggerates a person's facial features, dress, or manners.
Exaggeration	Overemphasizing a situation.
Symbolism	The use of an idea, image
Satire	Humor that expresses a viewpoint in a powerful or interesting way.
Caption	The use of words to give the cartoon verbal meaning.

Question to ask in class when students are looking at cartoons.

Look closely at the people, symbols, and/or captions in the cartoon. Explain what you think is happening in the cartoon.

1. What issue do you think the cartoonist is trying to address?
2. What conclusions can you draw about the cartoonist's opinion?
3. What specific items in the cartoon led to your conclusion?
4. What opposing point of view might exist on this issue?
5. Using complete sentence, explain the cartoon's main point.

Rubric	5 points	4 points	3 points	2 points	1 point	Total points
Content	The content of the cartoon is very accurate historically to the topic. The student's point of view is clearly evident	The content of the cartoon is accurate to the topic. The student's POV is evident	The content of the cartoon is partially accurate to the topic. The student's POV is somewhat evident	The content of the cartoon is somewhat accurate to the topic. The student's POV is barely evident	The content of the cartoon has no historical significance to the topic. The student's POV is not at all evident	
Conceptual elements	The cartoon has all 5 conceptual elements of a political cartoon: caricature, exaggeration, symbolism, satire, and caption	The cartoon has 4 of the conceptual element of a political cartoon	The cartoon has 3 of the conceptual elements of a political cartoon	The cartoon has 2 of the conceptual elements of a political cartoon	The cartoon has 1 of the conceptual elements of a political cartoon	
Appearance	The cartoon can be clearly read, very understandable, and drawn with precision	The cartoon is readable and can be understood, and drawn with care	The cartoon is somewhat readable, slightly difficult to understand and is drawn haphazardly	The cartoon is hard to read, difficult to understand, and is drawn poorly	The cartoon is not understandable and drawn without care	
Originality	The cartoon is clearly original with no elements borrowed from examples	The cartoon is mostly original with few elements borrowed from examples	The cartoon is somewhat original and somewhat borrowed from examples	The cartoon is mostly borrowed from examples with few original elements	The cartoon is clearly borrowed, with no original element from examples	
					Total Assignment Grade	/20