

POLITICAL CARTOONS

To analyze a political cartoon, consider its:

CONTENT - First, basically describe what is drawn in the cartoon (without referring to the labels). What is depicted? What is happening?

CONTEXT - Consider the timing. What is happening in national events at the time of the cartoon? Check the date: what occurred in the days and weeks before the cartoon appeared?

LABELS - Read each label; look for labels that are not apparent at first, and for other written content in the cartoon.

SYMBOLS - Name the symbols in the cartoons. What do they mean? How do they convey the cartoon's meaning?

TITLE - Study the title. Is it a statement, question, exclamation? Does it employ a well-known phrase, e.g., slang, song lyric, movie title, radio show, political or product slogan? How does it encapsulate and enhance the cartoonist's point?

tone - Identify the tone of the cartoon. Is it satirical, comic, tragic, ironic, condemning, quizzical, imploring? What adjective describes the feeling of the cartoon? How do the visual elements in the drawing align with its tone?

POINT - Put it all together. What is the cartoonist's point?