Study Guide for *Best Editorial Cartoons of the Year* Series

A very simple way to use editorial cartoons in the classroom

Included in this study guide . . .

*Analyzing an editorial cartoon
*Using the newspaper in the classroom
*Writing an editorial cartoon
*Cartoon Scavenger Hunt
*Cartoon Bingo

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Journal Page for Editorial Articles
Use this page to collect articles relating to cartoons you have collected.
Creating an Editorial Cartoon

Editorial cartoons are more than just funny pictures on a page. They make a statement about government, social issues, and politicians. To create an effective editorial cartoon, the person creating it has to know something about the issue he/she is satirizing. The creators of these cartoons have taken a position on a subject and are showing how they feel or what position they are taking through their drawing.

Here are a few tips to help you create an effective editorial cartoon.

* First thing to do is to pick an issue, a person, or something that you are interested in and want to satirize in a cartoon.
* Then, gather some ammunition (I mean, information) about the subject. You may already know enough about your subject to create an effective cartoon but you may want to look up some more information in order to make it more effective. Ask your teacher or parents about where to look for more information.
* Then, think about what is really bothering you about an issue or person. What statement do you want to make or what position do you want to take?
* Next, think about what tone you want your cartoon to have. Do you want to be critical or sarcastic, or do you want to motivate readers?
* Do you want to use symbols? The donkey is used in political cartoons to symbolize the Democratic Party, the elephant is used for the Republican Party - there are others, too. Look at other cartoons to see what symbols you might want to use.
* Make a rough draft of the message you want to send. It might help if you draw your cartoon at the same time.
* Make a final drawing (political cartoons figures often have exaggerated features to add to the humor) some captions, and you are finished.

Good luck and happy cartooning!!

Draw your cartoon here!
Here is an interesting exercise that will not only get students familiar with editorial cartoons but also get them familiar with other resource material. Get a copy of *Best Editorial Cartoons* -- any edition--and pick out 5 or 6 cartoonists. The name of the newspaper or magazine that each cartoonist works for is listed under their name at the bottom of each cartoon. Go to the library or get on the Internet and locate each newspaper or magazine and find other cartoons by the same cartoonist and put them in an editorial cartoon journal.

After collecting your cartoons – write a brief summary about what you think the message of each cartoon is. Do you agree with the message in the cartoon? Why or why not?

**Extended lesson: Have the students cut our articles in the paper or magazines that relate to the issues depicted in the political cartoons they have selected. There is a journal page provided for them to use for the article(s). Have them discuss in class.**

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**Cartoon Bingo**

Here’s a fun game for almost any age – cartoon bingo. It is played almost like regular bingo. Each student (or group of students) gets a game card and a *Best Editorial Cartoon* book. Go through the book and try to match the symbols in the book to the words on the game card. Make an X through each square as you find the symbol – 3 in a row (up, down, or diagonally) wins. Older students can write down the corresponding page number, teachers can rubber stamp the square for the younger students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>American Flag</th>
<th>Democratic Donkey</th>
<th>Republican Elephant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Statue of Liberty</td>
<td>The President of the United States (any one of them)</td>
<td>Uncle Sam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas Pump</td>
<td>News Reporter</td>
<td>Army Tank</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Analyzing Editorial Cartoons

Pictures often speak louder than words and they can give valuable information about people, places, things, and events. To use pictorial material effectively, you must be able to interpret or analyze it. So, here are a few tips to help you think about what editorial cartoons are saying even if there are no words at all.

First thing you need to do is find a copy of *Best Editorial Cartoons*.

Then, pick a cartoon or use the one your teacher assigns – look the cartoon over really well. Look at the details and try to decide what the main purpose or message of the cartoon is.

Next – think about the tone. Is the cartoon sarcastic, satirical, or insulting?

Does the cartoon show all of the information needed to achieve the intended message?

Are there any symbols in the picture? If so, what are they?

If there are labels or captions in the picture, what do they say?

Do you think that the cartoon is effective overall? Why or why not?

In your opinion, is the cartoon fair or is it biased in some way? Why or why not?

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Using the Newspaper in the Classroom

Have the students find editorial cartoons in the newspaper or magazines. Cut out and paste below for later use. For an extended lesson, have them write the reference citations from the periodical or newspaper where the cartoon came from.

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Write your reference citation information here.