

Analyzing Political Cartoons

Virginia and United States History

When analyzing a political cartoon, you should use the outline below. Make sure to analyze the visual elements/symbols, message(s), and opinion(s) completely, and then provide a summary of the political cartoon.

A.) Visual/Symbols

- a. Examine the people that are in this cartoon? Are there any historical/modern day figures? If so, who are they?
- b. What symbols are evident (examples: the flag, an eagle, a tea pot for the Tea Party)?
- c. What stands out to you when you first glance at this cartoon?

B.) Message

- a. If there is a caption for this cartoon, what is it?
- b. Discuss some key words/phrases of note in this cartoon.
- c. Assess the general message that the cartoonist is trying to convey to the reader.

C.) Opinion

- a. Examine the cartoonist's message and determine whether you agree with this message or not.
- b. If you disagree, why (explain in two sentences)? If you agree, explain why in at least two sentences.
- c. If this cartoon leaves you confused, discuss why you were not able to understand the message.

D.) Summary

Using the information from above, write a general summary of the cartoon's subject matter, message, your opinion, and what this cartoon suggests about the government and politics on a larger scale.