

Cartoonists use five main elements to convey their point of view.

- **symbolism** - using an object to stand for an idea
- **captioning and labels** - used for clarity and emphasis
- **analogy** - a comparison between two unlike things that share some characteristics
- **irony** - the difference between the way things are and the way things should be or the way things are expected to be
- **exaggeration** - overstating or magnifying a problem or a physical feature or habit: big nose, bushy eyebrows, large ears, baldness

EXAMPLES OF SYMBOLS USED IN POLITICAL CARTOONS

- **peace** - dove, olive branch, victory sign
- **United States** – Uncle Sam, flag, stars and stripes, shield, Columbia
- **Democrats** – donkey
- **Republicans** – elephant
- **death** - vulture, skeleton with shroud, skull and crossbones, grim reaper
- **love** - heart, Cupid, Venus
- **money** - dollar bill or dollar sign

Political Cartoon Analysis: A Nauseating Job, But It Must Be Done

1. Time - What time period is this cartoon from?
2. Place - Where is or could the cartoon taking place at?
3. Audience – Who is the target of the author’s message? Why?
4. Content – Describe the content/action of the cartoon.
5. Purpose – What is the author’s purpose?
6. Elements of the cartoon:
 - A. Identify three symbols used in the cartoon and their meaning.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - B. Exaggeration - Identify and explain the areas where the author used exaggeration to make a point.
 - C. Irony - Is the cartoon ironic? How so?
 - D. Analogy - Explain how analogy is used in the cartoon?
 - E. Captions/Labeling – List the labels or captioning in the cartoon? Explain what the labels and captions tell you about the cartoon.

Your Turn: Political Cartoon Analysis: Who Stole The People's Money?

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