

Cartoonists use 5 main elements to convey their point of view.

- symbolism – using an object to stand for an idea.
- captioning & 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 & 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, etc.

Examples of Symbols Used in Political Cartoons

- peace – dove, olive branch, victory sign, scales of justice.
- United States – Uncle Sam, flag, stars and stripes, shield, lady liberty.
- Democrats – donkey.
- Republicans – elephant.
- death – vulture, skeleton w/ shroud, skull and crossbones, grim reaper.
- love – heart, Cupid, Venus
- money – dollar bill or dollar sign.