

**TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT**  
***Learning to Analyze Political Cartoons with Lincoln as a Case Study***  
***From David Chassanoff***

Grade – 8th

Length of class period – 60 minute class, with a long term assignment included.

Inquiry – Students will learn to identify the key elements of a political cartoon and replicate the process themselves by creating a Civil War political cartoon.

Objectives - students will recognize symbolism, exaggeration, irony, analogy and captioning in political cartoons from the Civil War Era, determine the effectiveness of the artist & create their own cartoon using some of these elements.

Materials -Explanation of the key elements, a class example to discuss, a **power point presentation looking in detail at Lincoln as a case study**, a political cartoon analysis worksheet, a cartoon drawing activity and a rubric to use.

Activities The elements of a political cartoon will be thoroughly explained and defined. There will be an in depth question and answer session on how these elements have been used historically with the power point slide show using primary source material from the 1860's. The political cartoon analysis worksheet will be used with the cartoon: "The Good Uncle and the Naughty Boy" for homework. Finally, the students will create their own cartoon illustrating any aspect of the Civil War (see assignment).

How will you assess what student learned during this lesson?

The cartoon the students are creating will be graded as a quiz and will be assessed using the rubric included.

Connecticut Framework Performance Standards –

**Standard 2** Competence in literacy, inquiry and research skills is necessary to analyze, evaluate and present history and social studies information.

**2.2** Interpret information from a variety of primary and secondary sources, including electronic media (e.g., maps, charts, graphs, images, artifacts, recordings and text).

**High School 5** Interpret social/political messages of cartoons.