

TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT

Lesson Title – Skills for Reading Political Cartoons

Grade: Grade 7 and up, Social Studies

Length of class period: 15-30 minutes

Inquiry: What are the basic components of political cartoons, and how do you use these components to understand the message of a cartoon?

Objective: Upon completion of this lesson students will be able to identify the basic components of political cartoons. Students will be able to interpret selected political cartoons using these components.

Materials: Political Cartoons PowerPoint presentation, computer with LCD projector, cartoon analyzer (1/student), hard copies (1 class set) of cartoon appearing at the end of the PowerPoint.

Activities: This activity is a skill building activity, and the first portion is teacher-directed via a PowerPoint presentation. Students will have an opportunity in the second portion to practice interpreting cartoons.

1. Ask students to define/describe a political cartoon.
2. Begin PowerPoint presentation. Students need to take notes during the presentation. Students can respond to questions within the presentation.
3. At the end of the presentation, distribute cartoon analyzer and hard copies of cartoon.
4. Students can work with a partner to complete the cartoon analyzer; allow 5-7 minutes. Go over with class when finished.

Assessment: Informal assessment of complete note-taking. This will be checked during a regular notebook check. Class participation will be assessed with a 5,3,1 scale.

Connecticut Framework Performance Standards –

CS1.1-1.6: Historical Thinking

CS 4.1 & 4.3 Applying History: Initiate questions and hypotheses about historic events being studied; Describe relationships between historical subject matter and other subjects studied, current issues, and personal concerns.

Cartoon Analysis worksheet:

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/historyofus/teachers/pdfs/segment8-5.pdf?mii=1>