

Political Cartoon Analysis Assignment

- Choose five or more cartoons by the same cartoonist.
- Use the comic definitions we've discussed to analyze the techniques that the cartoonist uses in those cartoons.
- Use the Political Cartoon Analysis Sheet to record specific details on how the techniques are used in each of your cartoons.
- Compare the techniques in the group of cartoons using the Political Cartoon Comparison Sheet. Use tally marks to note the techniques in each political cartoon.
- Draw conclusions about why the cartoonist chooses the specific techniques to communicate the messages in the cartoons.
- Create an illustrated list of guidelines that someone else in the class can use to interpret the cartoonist's work in future cartoons. Use images from the cartoons to illustrate your guidelines.

Here's an example guideline using a cartoon from 1837:



Look for text labels on the characters and objects in the cartoons. These labels usually give extra information that is not always obvious from the drawing alone.

In this example, the man on the right of the image holds a newspaper labeled *Madisonian*. *The Madisonian* is a conservative Democratic newspaper, according to the Library of Congress Web site, so the label on the paper tells us that the man on the right is probably a conservative Democrat.



Image detail from "Settin' on a rail" from the Library of Congress, Reproduction Number: LC-USZ62-11137, Digital ID: cph 3a13534. Accessed online January 21, 2006. <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cph.3a13534>