



## Cartoon Analysis Worksheet

### What is This Cartoon Really Saying?

1. Read the cartoon.

Which persuasive techniques did the cartoonist use in this piece?  
(check all that apply)

- |                                       |                                  |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Symbolism    | <input type="checkbox"/> Analogy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exaggeration | <input type="checkbox"/> Irony   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Labeling     |                                  |

2. What is the event or issue that inspired the cartoon?

3. Are there any real people in the cartoon? Who is portrayed in the cartoon?

4. Are there symbols in the cartoon? What are they and what do they represent?

5. What is the cartoonist's opinion about the topic portrayed in the cartoon?

6. Do you agree or disagree with the cartoonist's opinion? Why?

7. Which Jewish values, if any, might be reflected in the message of this cartoon?



## Cartoon Analysis Worksheet

### Cartoon Analysis Guide

Use this guide to identify the persuasive techniques used in political cartoons.

#### Symbolism

Cartoonists use simple objects, or **symbols**, to stand for larger concepts or ideas.

After you identify the symbols in a cartoon, think about what the cartoonist intends each symbol to stand for.

Sometimes cartoonists **exaggerate**, the physical characteristics of people or things in order to make a point.

#### Exaggeration

When you study a cartoon, look for any characteristics that seem overdone or overblown. (Facial characteristics and clothing are some of the most commonly exaggerated characteristics.) Then, try to decide what point the cartoonist was trying to make through exaggeration.

#### Labeling

Cartoonists often **label** objects or people to make it clear exactly what they stand for.

Watch out for the different labels that appear in a cartoon, and ask yourself why the cartoonist chose to label that particular person or object. Does the label make the meaning of the object more clear?

#### Analogy

An **analogy** is a comparison between two unlike things that share some characteristics. By comparing a complex issue or situation with a more familiar one, cartoonists can help their readers see it in a different light.

After you've studied a cartoon for a while, try to decide what the cartoon's main analogy is. What two situations does the cartoon compare? Once you understand the main analogy, decide if this comparison makes the cartoonist's point more clear to you.

#### Irony

**Irony** is the difference between the ways things are and the way things should be, or the way things are expected to be. Cartoonists often use irony to express their opinion on an issue.

When you look at a cartoon, see if you can find any irony in the situation the cartoon depicts. If you can, think about what point the irony might be intended to emphasize. Does the irony help the cartoonist express his or her opinion more effectively?

From It's No Laughing Matter- Analyzing Political Cartoons by The Library of Congress

[www.loc.gov/teachers/clsaaroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/activities/political-cartoon/cag.html](http://www.loc.gov/teachers/clsaaroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/activities/political-cartoon/cag.html)