

## Interpreting Political Cartoons

SATIRE - uses humor to lower something or someone in the reader's or viewer's estimation. It is not mean-spirited and its point is not to harm. It exposes human folly to make room for improvement.

CARICATURE - exaggerates one or more features of a person or thing. It attempts to say something about the person/thing's character, beliefs, actions or significance.

SYMBOL- represents something else. It is often a material object that represents something abstract or invisible (for example, the Statue of Liberty to represent freedom).

METAPHOR- uses an object to note a similarity to something else. For example, using a tiger to represent one nation invading another.

IRONY- expresses an idea through a contradiction between something's literal meaning and the intended meaning. For example, picturing a U.S. president with a crown on his head.

SARCASM- is a form of irony. The element that turns irony into sarcasm is the appearance of mockery, or bitterness.

STEREOTYPES- works by taking a real or imagined trait of an individual to be true of the group to which the individual belongs. They express bias and can be unfair and harmful.

What is the purpose of a political cartoon?

- To expose one of two gaps;
  1. The gap between appearance and reality.
  2. The gap between what is and what should be or could be.
- They attempt to expose hypocrisy, point out pretentiousness, laugh at arrogance, deflate the powerful, and give voice to the underdog.