

## Political Cartoon Analysis Guiding Questions

### **OBSERVE: Identify and note details**

- What do you notice first? Describe what else you see.
- Describe what is happening in the cartoon. What people and objects are shown? How are they arranged? How do they relate to one another?
- What is the physical setting? Is place important?
- Is the cartoon realistic, exaggerated, or abstract? What do you see that looks different than it would in a different kind of illustration, photograph, or other work of art?
- Do you recognize any symbols? Describe any that you see
- Are any words used? Are there few words or a lot of words? Do any of the words help explain the symbols?
- Are there details that suggest the time period this cartoon relates to? Is the creation date listed in the bibliographic record? If the creation date is listed, was this cartoon created at or around the same time period the cartoon relates to?
- What other details can you see?

### **REFLECT: Generate and test hypotheses**

- What tools might have been used to create this cartoon?
- Why do you think the creator chose to include the people and objects shown? What might have been left out of the frame?
- Are the words used literal or figurative? How do you know? Why do you think the creator chose these particular words? Do you think anything was purposefully left unsaid?
- How are symbols used and what do you think they mean?
- What perspective or bias does this cartoon show? What evidence supports your conclusion?
- Why do you think this cartoon was made? What might have been the creator's purpose? What evidence supports your theory?
- Who do you think was the audience for this cartoon? What do you think the creator might have wanted the audience to think or feel? Does the arrangement or presentation of objects and text affect how the audience might think or feel? How?
- What do you feel when looking at this cartoon?
- What was happening during the time period this cartoon represents? If someone made this cartoon today, what would be different/the same?
- What did you learn from examining this cartoon? Does any new information you learned contradict or support your prior knowledge about the topic of this cartoon?

### **QUESTION: What didn't you learn that you would like to know about? What questions does this political cartoon raise? What do you wonder about . . .**

- Who?
- What?
- When?
- Where?
- Why?
- How?

### **What sources might you consult to learn more?**