

Rubric for Assessing a Political Cartoon

Grading Criteria	Excellent	Acceptable	Minimal	Unacceptable
Message	Key issue and cartoonist's position are clearly identifiable.	Key issue and cartoonist's position are identifiable.	Key issue is identifiable; cartoonist's position may be unclear.	Key issue and cartoonist's position are unclear.
Visual Presentation and Creativity	Cartoon is neat and clean; color and creative graphics are used exceptionally well; captions are readable.	Cartoon is neat and clean; color and creative graphics are used; captions are readable.	Cartoon is somewhat neat; some color and creative graphics are used; captions are included.	Cartoon is messy; color and graphics are lacking; captions are omitted or unreadable.
Content	Cartoon clearly conveys an understanding of the issue; excellent use of appropriate symbolism; title is clear, clever, and relevant to topic.	Cartoon conveys understanding of the issue; uses appropriate symbolism; title is clear and relevant to topic.	Cartoon conveys a limited understanding of the issue; attempts to use symbolism; title is unclear or irrelevant to topic.	Cartoon conveys little or no understanding of the issue; does not use symbolism; title is missing.