

D15: English Settlement in the New World: Political Cartoon (50 pts – Draft Due: D17)

Today we were discussing how the New England colonies got started here in the New World. We saw a lot of examples of injustice and unfair treatment of many different groups. Now, you have the opportunity to share how you feel about this. For this assignment, you will be doing one of two things: creating a **Political Cartoon** or alternatively writing a **Letter to the Editor** that shows how you might feel about a particular issue discussed. Here are some potential topics you could address:

- Hypocrisy of the Puritans (how they were looking for **religious freedom** for themselves, yet they deny it for others, like **Roger Williams**, etc.)
- **Mistreatment of the Natives** (Squanto and others saved the first English settlers, yet by 50 years later, in 1679, most of the Natives were attacked and killed by the English in the King Philip’s War)
- Settling of **New Colonies** (how and why they were created, etc.)
- **Reasons** for coming to **America** (why did people come; was it what they expected?)

Here are some ideas as you work to create your **Political Cartoon**:

- Make clear what **issue** are you are addressing, and **your opinion** on that subject (i.e., the message you want to send to your audience regarding the issue).
- How have people **suffered / benefited** as a result of this issue? **Address that!**
- Make sure to use the **persuasive techniques** discussed (see back side for more info)
- Review my [Cartoon Analysis Video](#) for help

Cartoon Rubric:

| Criteria | Beginning 0-5% | Developing 6-10% | Satisfactory 11-15% | Accomplished 16-20% | Score |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|--|-------|
| Facts / Info | No facts are included in the presentation | Fewer than 3 facts in the presentation | There are 4 facts in the presentation | There are 5 or more facts in the presentation | |
| Accuracy & Conventions | The cartoon has multiple errors regarding its facts. There are numerous conventional errors (spelling, etc.) | Facts are mostly accurate, with some errors. Some conventional errors (spelling, etc.) are present | Facts are accurate, with perhaps a minor error or two. Conventional errors (spelling, etc.) are minimal | All the facts used are accurate; no conventional errors (spelling, etc.) | |
| Organization | Information is poorly organized and difficult to read / understand | Information is starting to make sense, but still a bit difficult to follow, and a bit messy | Information is easy to follow with perhaps some minor flaws | All information is well-organized, neat and easy to follow | |
| Message Strength | The message is unclear or weak, and the viewer struggles to understand the point. Doesn’t utilize persuasive techniques well | The message is somewhat clear, but not very powerful or strong. Uses at least one persuasive technique moderately well | The message is clear. Uses several different persuasive techniques to good effect | The message to the viewers is clear, strong, & persuasive; viewer easily understands the message. Utilizes persuasive techniques very well | |
| Creativity | Illustrations are poor, rehashed ideas from other sources; don’t really support the message | Illustrations are adequate, but lack originality, and weakly support the message | Illustrations are adequate, and reinforce the message | The illustrations are well done, powerfully reinforcing the message | |

Comments:

Total Score:

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Cartoon Creation Guide

Use this guide to create a powerful and persuasive political / editorial cartoon.

As you are working on creating your own political cartoon, consider the following questions:

- What issue is the / your political cartoon about? Will this be readily understood by a reader?
- What is their / your opinion on this issue? How do / can you powerfully portray that opinion?
- What other opinion(s) can you imagine another person having on this issue? Are you going to address them? If so, how?
- Is your cartoon persuasive? Why or why not?
- What other techniques might you use to make this cartoon more persuasive?

Additionally, don't forget to consider the following persuasive techniques¹ that most good cartoonists utilize to make powerful and persuasive cartoons:

Cartoonists' Persuasive Techniques

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Symbolism | <p>Cartoonists use simple objects, or symbols, to stand for larger concepts or ideas.</p> <p>As you consider your topic, what are some easily recognizable symbols you might utilize to represent some of the topics you want to address?</p> |
| Exaggeration | <p>Sometimes cartoonists overdo, or exaggerate, the physical characteristics of people or things in order to make a point. For instance, facial characteristics and clothing are some of the most commonly exaggerated characteristics.</p> <p>What might you exaggerate, and why? Is the point obviously understood? If not, how could you make it more easily identifiable?</p> |
| Labeling | <p>Cartoonists often label objects or people to make it clear exactly what they stand for, as opposed to symbols for instance, which can sometimes be a bit more cryptic.</p> <p>Sometimes you may have to decide between using a symbol or a label. If so, you must consider several questions: Which will get the point across better? Sometimes a symbol may be more clever, as well as persuasive, so it isn't always a cut-and-dry decision regarding which to use. Does the label make the object more easily understood? Does it simplify understanding of the topic?</p> |
| Analogy | <p>An analogy is a comparison between two unlike things. By comparing a complex issue or situation with a more familiar one, cartoonists can help their readers see it in a different light.</p> <p>This is a frequently used technique, and can be very helpful in simplifying more complex issues. What two things are you comparing? (your topic vs. a more common familiar topic). Is it easily identified? Does the analogy explain the issue and your opinion in a clearer light?</p> |
| Irony | <p>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.</p> <p>What might be ironic about your topic? Once you've figured that out, exploit it, and use it to persuade your audience that your opinion on the issue is the right one. Use it to emphasize your opinion. If it isn't making your opinion and the issue more clear, then it isn't right.</p> |

¹In many ways, this is like the **Cartoon Analysis Guide**, which you may be familiar with, but in reverse.