

McCoy Social Studies

Analyzing a Political Cartoon or Propaganda Image

1. **Read everything that is readable!** (e.g. newspaper headlines if they are readable)
2. **Identify all objects.**
 - a. Identify any symbolism
3. **Identify the people**
 - a. Identify any people who are symbolic (e.g. Lady carrying the scales of justice)
 - b. Identify any famous people such as world leaders
4. **Identify the activities in the cartoon**
 - a. Are any symbolic? (e.g. A bus labelled The Economy going over a cliff)
5. **Typical skills** (a, b, and c usually related but different)
 - a. Identify the purpose of the cartoon
 - b. Identify the message of the cartoon
 - c. Identify points of view related to the cartoon
6. **Points of View**
 - a. What people or groups would like the cartoon and its purpose, message or point of view?
 - b. What people are groups would be unhappy with the cartoon's purpose, message or point of view?

Image Analysis Process

Step 1: Observation

A. Study the photograph for carefully for a minute or two. Form an overall impression of the photograph and then examine individual items. Next, divide the photo into quadrants and study each section to see what new details become visible.

B. Create a table to list people, objects, and activities in the photograph.

People	Objects	Activities

Step 2: Inference

A. Based on what you have observed above, list three things you might infer from this photograph?

B.

Step 3: Questions

A. What questions does this photograph raise in your mind?

B. Where could you find answers to them?