**Analyzing Political and Editorial Cartoons**

Every week, you will complete an analysis on a current political or editorial cartoon of your choice. This activity will provide an opportunity to analyze visual images while staying current with state, national, and local events.

The process is as follows:

1. Go to an online newspaper (*The Miami Herald, The New York Times, The Washington Post, USA Today*, etc.)
2. Search for current political cartoons
3. Select and print a copy of the cartoon
4. Complete the SCANSConclusion handout

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| **S**ubject | **Identify the subject of the visual**: determine as much as possible from the information provided about the a) context, b) date, c) issue, and d) subject matter.  Do not summarize the cartoon. Provide newsworthy information about the cartoon. |  |
| **C**ontent | Identify:  ● **major components**, such as characters, visual details, colors, symbols  ● **verbal clues**, such as titles, tag lines, date, author, dialogue  ● the **positions/actions** of any characters, especially relative to one another or to their surroundings  ● **traits** of the characters or objects  ● **significant images**, including repeated or patterned imagery  ● **composition lines** (parallel, crossing) |  |
| **A**ttitudes | ● Notice **position and size** of details: exaggerations, focal points, or emphasis of other kinds  ● Notice details that create **positive or negative reactions** to characters or objects portrayed in the visual  ● Does the author indicate **alternative viewpoints**?  ● Does the **place and environment** create mood?  ● What are the **reactions** of other characters to the central character(s)?  ● Is there any **irony** in the way characters or situations are portrayed? If so, explain the irony. |  |
| **N**arrative | |  | | --- | | ● Does there appear to be any **conflict**? What are the attitudes of the characters to the conflict? How does that conflict seem to be progressing?  ● Does something refer to an **event or person in literature or history**? What do you know about this literary or historical person or situation?  ● What do the actions of the characters or their relative positions say about **them and their relationships**? | |  |
| **S**ymbolism | ● Do some of the concrete items represent **abstract ideas**?  ● What **colors** are used and what do these colors symbolize?  ● Are there **contrasts** of lightness and darkness, of color, of shape, of size? |  |
| **Conclusions** | Identify the ***argument*** behind the cartoon.   * What is the cartoonist’s position on this issue? * What does the cartoonist want to correct? |  |