



APATHY CARTOON ANALYSIS

(30-45 minutes)

OBJECTIVE

Students analyze political cartoons portraying apathy to examine the value of voting.

MATERIALS

Political Cartoon Analysis handouts 1 and 2;
Apathy Cartoons handout

GET READY

- ✓ Copy the *Political Cartoon Analysis* forms for each student or group. Copy a political cartoon for each student or group.
- ✓ See “Voter Apathy” in the Appendix.

INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Divide the class into groups of three.
- ✓ Decide which of the political cartoons each group will analyze (mix it up so different groups have different cartoons).
- ✓ Give the students time to complete the *Political Cartoon Analysis 1* handout. If time allows, students can exchange cartoons and complete another analysis.
- ✓ When the forms have been completed, have the groups share their analysis with the rest of the class.
- ✓ For homework, consider giving your students the task of finding a political cartoon on their own and analyzing it with the *Political Cartoon Analysis 2* handout.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *What is the purpose of these political cartoons?*
- ★ *What are some reasons for voter apathy in this country?*
- ★ *How do these cartoons remind us of the power of voting?*
- ★ *Can these political cartoons help encourage people to vote?*
- ★ *What are the responsibilities of citizens in a democracy? How can you prepare for these responsibilities?*
- ★ *What can happen to a democracy when citizens are not responsible and don't use their right to vote?*

MORE!

Encourage students to make their own political cartoons about any issue.

VOTE QUOTE

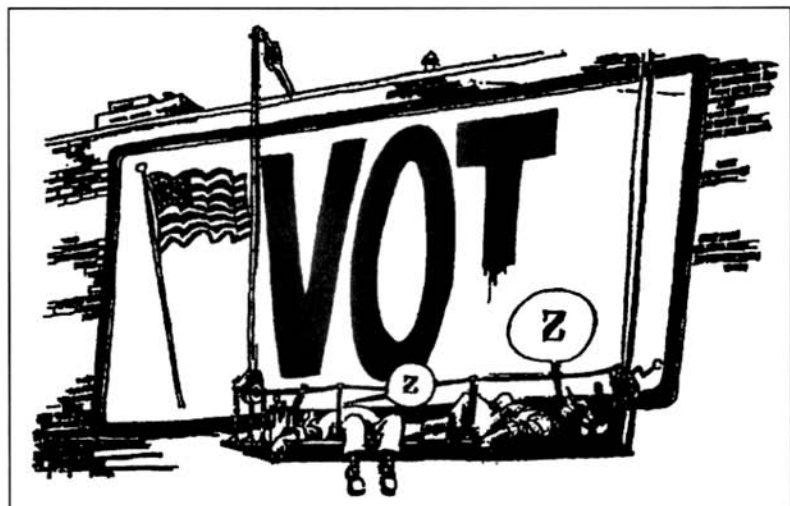
“The Greek word for idiot, literally translated, means ‘one who does not participate in politics.’ That sums up my conviction on the subject.” –Gladys Pyle



APATHY CARTOONS



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POLITICAL CARTOON ANALYSIS 1

Cartoons are a way of expressing an opinion. Cartoons have been used in publications for hundreds of years. Early cartoons were used to give messages to people who could not read.

Editorial cartoons have certain characteristics. Check to see how many of the following characteristics your cartoon has:

Presents a problem, not a solution	
Deals with one issue at a time	
Has people drawn as caricatures	
Uses exaggeration to prove a point	
Shows institutions, such as the government, as people	

Cartoonists use several techniques to get their message across.

Check the techniques your cartoon includes:

Caricature – changing or distorting a person’s features in a way that makes the person recognizable	
Exaggeration – overemphasizing an event or situation	
Stereotyping – showing all persons of the same group looking and acting the same	
Symbols – using a sign or object to stand for something	
Satire – using wit and ridicule to make fun of something that seems wrong	
Labeling – using written words to identify figures and causes	



POLITICAL CARTOON ANALYSIS 2

Name of Publication:

Date of Publication:

Page:

Do you agree with the opinion expressed in the cartoon? Explain.

What is the issue in this cartoon?

Whom or what do the characters represent?

Are any symbols used to add meaning? What are they?

Are any labels used to add meaning? What are they?

Is there a caption? What meaning does it add to the cartoon?

Is the cartoon humorous? What makes it so?

What seems to be the cartoonist's opinion on this issue?

Do you agree with the opinion expressed in the cartoon? Explain.