

Cartoon Controversies Presentations (Updated Spring 2019)

This assignment's purpose is to allow you to explore and understand at least two opposing sides of a current controversial issue, while evaluating sources of information for reliability and bias. Once you have done this, you and a partner will then lead a class discussion to present and defend opposing views on the issue. Successful student efforts will demonstrate teamwork, credible research, and effective oral and written communication.

Preparing Your Presentation:

1. Work with a partner to identify a controversial political topic about which American citizens and political parties typically have differing viewpoints (**See list on back for ideas**).
2. Once you have identified a topic you need to research background and historical information. Why is your topic controversial? When and why did this issue become part of the public discourse?
3. Locate **TWO** political cartoons that demonstrate each side of your issue. Research reliable evidence that supports each side of your interpretations of the topic. Analysis should include discussion of cartoon symbolism, bias, political point of view, as well as statistics and other forms of compelling evidence.
4. Prepare **TWO** open-ended discussion questions that will help your team lead the class in discussion.
5. The Friday before your cartoon controversies presentation, submit cartoons and discussion questions to Mr. Strahn for pre-check and grade. Once approved, both will be included as part of your scheduled presentation.
6. **EACH STUDENT** must write up a well-developed, typed paragraph stating their own opinion on the issue and how they came to that opinion. **This must be turned in the day of the presentation.**

Giving Your Presentation:

1. **Introduction slide:** Your introduction slide should include you and your partner's name as well as your topic. A generic cartoon related to the topic can be included for added visual appeal.
2. **Slide 2--Background Information Slide:** Both partners will offer brief overview of the topic with relevant background to ensure that their classmates understand the issue and why it is controversial
3. **Slide 3 Cartoon #1:** One of the team members will explain their analysis and interpretation of the cartoon. What is the message of the cartoon? What techniques did the artist use; irony, symbolism, analogy, etc?
4. **Slide 4 Analysis:** The same presenter should provide at least five bulleted factual statements (statistics, survey data, quotations, etc.) from identified sources (e.g. according to a 2018 survey in The LA Times, 61% of Democrats feels that climate change is human caused) explaining why Cartoon #1 is supporting a liberal or conservative point of view.
5. **Slide 5 Cartoon #2:** The other team member will explain their analysis and interpretation of the second cartoon as indicated in point 3 above.
6. **Slide 6 Analysis:** The same presenter should then provide at least five bulleted factual statements explaining why Cartoon #2 is supporting the opposite side of the issue, as indicated in point 4 above.
7. **Slide 7 Discussion Questions:** Student teams will ask for clarifying questions from the classroom and attempt to address them in a fair and balanced way. They will then present at least two opened ended questions regarding the topic aimed at stimulating a respectful and diplomatic sharing of thoughts and opinions from their fellow classmates. Mr. Strahn will help to facilitate the discussion, as needed.

Written Assignment:

1. On the assigned presentation day, student teams will turn in **ONE** typed annotated works cited page. In addition to a URL each annotation should include a short description of each source stating whether or not it is **reliable** and/or **biased** and how you came to that conclusion. You need a minimum of **FIVE SOURCES** for full credit.
2. Student teams will **ALSO** need **ONE** typed written analysis of approximately half a page for **EACH** cartoon. Analysis should include discussion of cartoon symbolism and political point of view, as well as specific evidence to support your interpretations.
3. Finally, **EACH STUDENT** will also turn in ½ to 1 page typed personal position statement which expresses their thoughts and opinions regarding the controversial topic. **NOTE:** Said opinions may differ from those voiced during the oral presentation described above. (e.g. both students may have the same general thoughts regarding their chosen topic)

Issues and presentation dates will be determined early in the semester. This assignment is weighted as part of your Passport to Citizenship Assessment will be worth 100 points.

60 points for the presentation:

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|---|
| 30 points | Content | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• brief background of issue• presentation displays two cartoons demonstrating opposing views• presentation includes thorough analysis of each side of the issue• thoughtful discussion questions are presented for the topic |
| 15 points | Effectiveness | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• clear and effective delivery of information• positive interaction with the audience (eye contact, posture, etc.)• effective management of questions/discussion |
| 15 points | Time management | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• presentation is tech ready• time balanced between partners during presentation and discussion• Presentation is 5-7 minutes; Facilitated Discussion is 8-10 minutes |

40 points for the pre-check/write up:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 10 points | pre-check of cartoon and questions |
| 10 points | annotated bibliography with at least 5 credible sources |
| 10 points | written analysis of <u>EACH</u> cartoon |
| 10 points | personal position statement regarding the controversial issue |

POTENTIAL TOPICS

Domestic Policy

- Gun Control/2nd Amendment Rights/School Shootings/Arming Teachers
- Black Lives Matter/Colin Kaepernick
- Electoral College
- Fake News/Media Bias/Social Media
- Domestic Spying (Cell Phones/Internet)
- Supreme Court/Kavanaugh Nomination
- Affirmative Action
- Income Inequality/Increase taxes on corporations/wealthy
- Obamacare (Affordable Care Act)
- Term limits for Senators and Representatives
- Climate Change/Environmental Policy
- Voter ID Laws
- Campaign Financing (Citizens United Case)
- Education Reform
- Confederate Monuments
- FBI Corruption
- GOP Tax Plan
- Government Shutdowns/Gridlock
- Government Spending/Budget Deficits
- Trade/Tariffs
- Net Neutrality

- Mandatory vaccinations
- Social Security Reform
- Planned Parenthood funding
- Political Correctness/Culture Wars in Politics
- Transgender Issues/Bathrooms/Military
- Feminism/#@metoo
- White Nationalism

Foreign Policy Issues

- North Korea Nukes
- Afghanistan
- Authorize use of force against ISIS/Syria
- Trump's Russia Connections/Russia Election Interference
- Iran Nuke Deal
- Torture
- Guantanamo Bay
- Fighting Terrorism w/Drones
- Women in Combat/Draft
- Syrian Withdrawal
- Immigration policy
 - Building a Wall
 - Muslim Ban
 - DACA
 - Refugees

Social Issues

- Legalization of Marijuana at the federal level
- Federal Recognition of Gay Marriage
- Right to Die/Assisted Suicide
- Death Penalty

NOTE: Presentations will generally take place on Wednesdays and will start on February 20th, 2019. See Mr. Strahn if you have another idea that's not on this list.