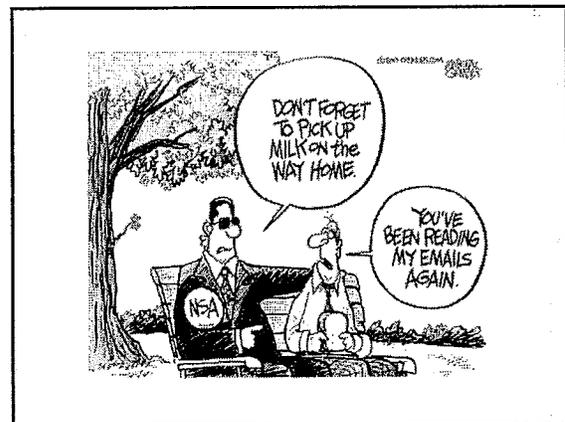
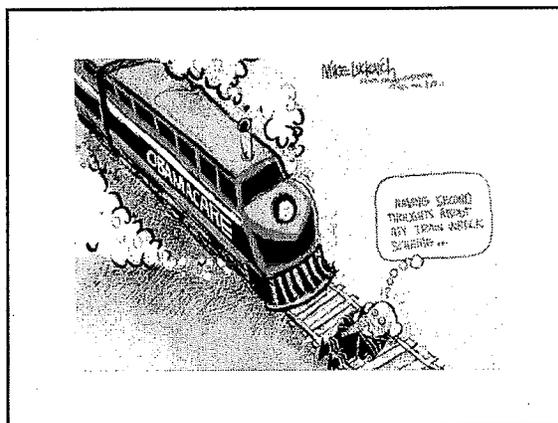
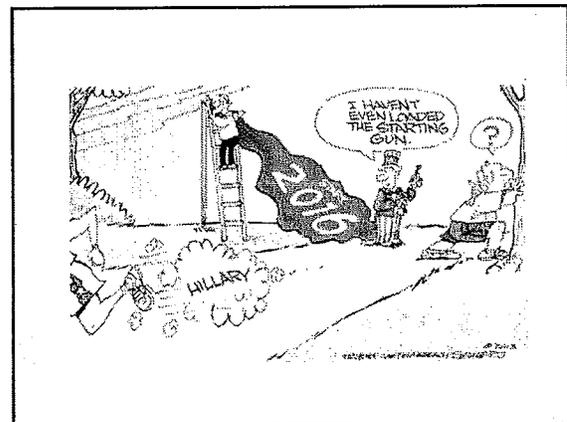
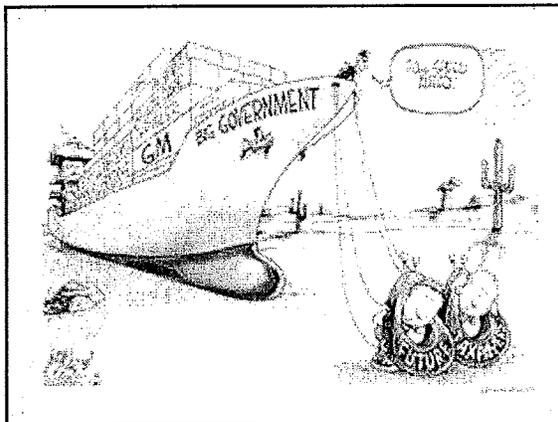
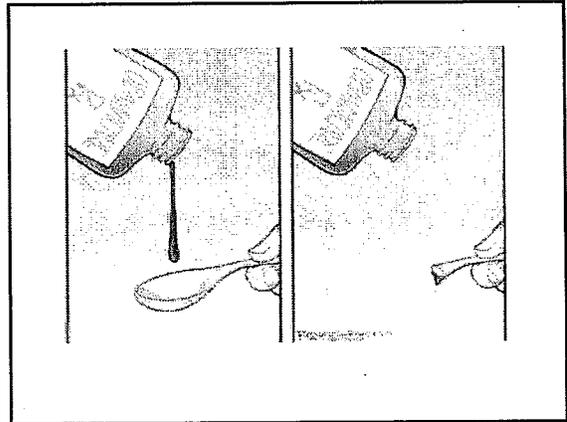


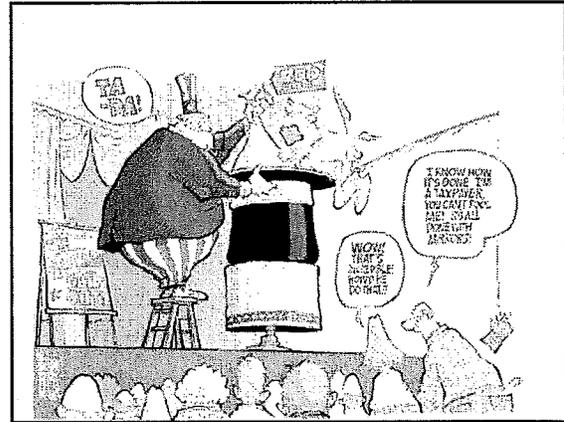
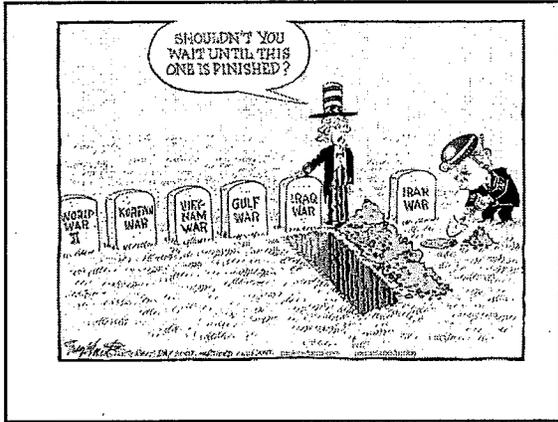
*Political Cartoons

What you should look for when interpreting Political Cartoons:

- *Read the title/Caption
- *Look for a date or signature
- *Recognize the people or images
- *Read anything the people may be saying
- *Read what is written on any object in the cartoon
- *Make notes if necessary
- *Relate it to something we learned!







How to Analyze Political Cartoons

- 1. Let your eyes "float" over the cartoon.** Artists know what will capture the mind's attention first. Allow your mind and your eyes to naturally find the portion of the cartoon that most stands out. Most often, this will be a *caricature*, which is an exaggeration or distortion of a person or object with the goal of providing a comic effect.
- 2. Follow the cartoon's natural flow by discovering the interaction with the primary focus (found in step 1).** If it's a person, to whom are they talking? Where are they standing? If it's an object, what is being done to the object? What is it doing there? Most often, you can look around the immediate vicinity of the primary focus to find what is being described. This is usually an *allusion*, or an indirect reference to a past or current event that isn't explicitly made clear within the cartoon.
- 3. Determine the audience.** What section of the population is the publication geared towards, and in what country and locality? A political cartoon will be created with consideration to the experiences and assumptions of the intended audience. For example, a political cartoon in a publication distributed in a strictly conservative tone will convey its message in a different way than it would if the audience was a particularly liberal group.
- 4. Understand the context of the cartoon.** More often than not, the political cartoon will be published in context, meaning that it is associated with the main news story of the day. If you are viewing a political cartoon outside of its original publishing source, you will want to be well-read about current and historical events. For example, if Al Gore is talking to the Democratic National Convention about the Internet and how great it is, you need to understand that the press at one time misinterpreted what Al Gore said in an interview with CNN's Wolf Blitzer that he "invented" the Internet.
- 5. Look for widely recognized symbols.** Some metaphors are commonly used by political cartoonists. For example:
 - Uncle Sam or an eagle for the United States
 - John Bull, Britannia or a lion for the United Kingdom
 - a beaver for Canada
 - a bear for Russia
 - a dragon for China
 - a sun for Japan
 - a kangaroo for Australia
- 6. Look at minor details in the cartoon that will contribute to the humor or the point of the cartoon.** Often, words or pictorial symbols will be used to convey minor themes or ideas, but they are found in the background or on the sides of the cartoon.

Political Cartoons

Directions: Choose a type of government that we discussed that you are having a difficulty learning. In the first box, draw a political cartoon that SUPPORTS that type of government. In the second box, draw a cartoon that would be AGAINST that type of government. You should use the same type of government in both charts. Draw a **CRAZY** story to help you remember. Be able to explain your story.

Supports

Type of Government: _____

Opposes

Type of Government: _____