



Freedom To Draw — Freedom To Laugh

Name:.....

Political cartoons (also known as editorial cartoons) are defined as illustrations or comic strips containing a political or social message that usually relates to current events or personalities.

Australia is a **democratic nation** and our citizens enjoy the rights and responsibilities of democracy. One of the **values** of a democracy is **freedom of thought and expression**. Using the current *Behind the Lines* Exhibition, you will be exploring the freedom that cartoonists have to express their views without fear.

Other Australian values:
respect, inclusion, civility, responsibility, compassion, equality and a 'fair go'.

Let's find out how a single cartoon frame can convey a simple political or social message.

- Look at a number of the cartoons in the exhibition.
- Choose one to analyse in more detail.
- Record the title of the cartoon in the space below.

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1. Using your chosen cartoon—record all the **objects**, **symbols** and **people** you see in this cartoon.

Why are these important to the cartoon?

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2. Record any **dates/words** that are in the cartoon. How can these help tell you what the cartoon is about?

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3. Record what **action** is happening in the cartoon.

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4. Is there any **emotion** or **tone** shown in the cartoon? If so, what is it and describe how it is shown.

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5. Consider what type of **humour** is used in the cartoon—Irony, Satire, or Sarcasm? Who/what is the humour directed at?

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Irony
the literal meaning of what is presented is the opposite of what is intended

Satire
where an artist exposes and denounces vice, folly, abuses etc. to scorn and ridicule

Sarcasm
praise which is really an insult; generally involves malice, the desire to put someone down

6. What social or political issue is the cartoonist commenting on?

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7. What comment is the cartoonist making about this issue?

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8. Look at the comments beside the cartoon and summarise the background information the cartoonist has written—why did they want to do a cartoon about this topic?

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Extension. Make a list of the various social and political issues that have been mentioned in this years exhibition.

Consider what values are being explored through these issues — use the list from the first page to help you.

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Drawing Time — a political caricature

Follow these instructions to draw a caricature of a historical politician Gough Whitlam.



Reflection Time —

Political cartooning has a unique place in Australia's democracy. This is one forum where freedom of expression is celebrated.

Using examples of cartoons from the exhibition to support your claims, explain why you think it's important that in society cartoonists should have the freedom to express their views without fear.

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