

INTERPRET EDITORIAL CARTOONS

Assignment: Students are asked to locate, interpret editorial cartoons on a chosen topic. Students can work in groups or individually, and their analysis could be delivered as a presentation or as a paper. Students can be asked to supplement their analyses with editorials or articles from newspapers on similar topics. Students should be required to document all of their research (including the source for the cartoon) in a bibliography.

Preparation: The library subscribes to a database called Issues and Controversies, which is particularly well-suited for this assignment. Prior to the class, you might talk to a librarian about this database. Because the cartoons are organized by subject, you can either choose from the list of topical areas, or you can ask students to select a topic from that list.

What to expect in the library session: During the library session, the librarian will show students how to access Issues and Controversies and how to find editorial cartoons. The librarian will also show students how to search for newspaper articles by using other databases, if the assignment calls for students to supplement their analyses with additional material. The class will have time to find and choose a cartoon during the library session. If you don't have time to schedule an entire library session, the librarian can demonstrate how to find editorial cartoons and search for articles on related topics during a 15 minute demonstration in your class.

Tips, suggestions and warnings: Because students will be relying on one database for this assignment, they may not familiarize themselves with several databases, unless they are also called upon to find related articles. It might be a good idea to demonstrate how to analyze visual material by working with the class as a whole before asking students to interpret a cartoon on their own. Issues and Controversies also contains questions for educators who are interested in these kinds of assignments; this guide might prove useful when planning the lesson.

Information Literacy Learning Outcomes: A student who successfully completes this assignment will have demonstrated his/her ability to

1. Choose appropriate resources to search for relevant information (if students are asked to find additional material)
2. Implement a variety of search strategies to find information effectively and efficiently (if students are asked to find additional material)
3. Evaluate resources critically
4. Cite research in an appropriate documentation style