

# Educational Resources

## PARLIAMENT IN THE NEWS

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### Analyzing Political Cartoons

Political cartoons are generally thought-provoking and strive to educate the viewer about a current issue. Through the use of symbols, caricatures, and exaggerations, the cartoonist points out the trends, themes, and problems of a given time. They are an influential means of bringing commentary on important local and world issues into our lives.

Search news sources for political cartoons, and choose one of interest to you.

- Identify the people in the cartoon. What are they doing? What emotions are represented?
- Identify the objects in the cartoon. Are any of these symbols? What do they symbolize?
- Use this information to identify the current issue being addressed by the cartoonist.

Cartoonists will employ different techniques to draw the reader's attention to a certain point of view. (For example, they may exaggerate physical features or use symbols or plays on words.)

- Identify the techniques used in this cartoon. How are they effective in conveying a particular point of view?
- What is the point of view being expressed?
- Who might agree with this point of view? Who might disagree?

How might political cartoons affect public support of parliamentarians or of the decisions they make?