War on Terror

Political Cartoons

Cartoonists use a variety of methods to convey their ideas. The techniques they use include:

- **Labels:** Cartoonists often identify or name certain things in their cartoons so that it is apparent what the things represent.
- **Symbolism:** Cartoonists may use simple objects to represent larger ideas or concepts.
- **Analogy:** Cartoonists may compare a simple image or concept to a more complex situation in order to help the viewer understand the situation in a different way.
- **Irony:** Cartoonists may express an opinion on a topic by highlighting the difference between the way things are and expectations of the way things should be.

With the person sitting next to you, explain and point out how the artist used Labels, Symbolism, Analogy and Irony in this political cartoon.

Work with your group to analyze the cartoons assigned you. You will be asked to identify the techniques that each cartoonist used. The following questions will help guide your thinking.

1. If the cartoonist used **labels,** what things in the cartoon are labeled? Why do you think the cartoonist chose to label those things?
2. If the cartoonist used **symbolism,** what things in the cartoon are symbols? What do they stand for?
3. If the cartoonist used an **analogy,** what two ideas or situations are compared? How does this comparison help the viewer see the complex situation in a different way?
4. If the cartoonist used **irony,** what does the cartoonist show about the way things are? How does the cartoonist think that things should be?

Your Task

- You are going to be creating your own political cartoon focused on the War on Terror
  - Could be about the wars in Afghanistan or Iraq, response to 9/11, response of the U.S. government to terrorism, or terrorism generally
- Your cartoon must have:
  - Images
  - Between 1-20 words
  - Color