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Political Cartoons

In politics there will always be controversy and there will always be a positive and negative side on things and that’s what makes it so interesting. One of the ways we show our positive and negative feelings of politics is through political cartoons. Political cartoons are cartoons that are displaying a political issue, a political icon, and also a positive or negative connotation towards that political icon. They are effective in trying to get people to change their opinions about certain political figures. They can be very persuasive but also can include a lot of negativity which might not always work for your cause. In all political cartoons we can notice things that are negative too the political icon that is of focus. Political Cartoons can only be successful with a clear, humorous, define message.

One strategy used in political cartoons is humor. Humor can get your reader or your subject person of persuasion to like the message easier and also remember it longer as well. However if your reader doesn’t understand the humor you are going for then you could possibly decrease your chances of having the reader persuade and understand what it is that you are attacking or supporting. A strategy that is commonly used with most political cartoon artists is giving a certain political icon a negative trait. Some example are giving Barack Obama big ears and making him tall and skinny, George Bush also with long ears but with a donkey looking face showing his unintelligence, and Bill Clinton with a big fat nose. These are good when the reader may have a hard time identifying who the person is that is being targeted. The notable physical traits are a technique that carries on with artist to artist.

Another trait to a successful political cartoon is the surroundings. The surroundings can add also to the humor aspect of a political cartoon. How the Political Icon interacts with his surroundings whether it’s a person or group of people of just simply a situation that the person is adds to the message that the artist is trying to portray. However the political icon needs to be well reacting to the surroundings and the surroundings to him in order for the reader to be able to understand what the message is saying and the little hidden meanings that most political cartoons share.

Knowledge of politics is extremely important when creating a political cartoon so knowing facts about the person you are cartooning about is vital. Also if your political cartoon is going to be negative you will certainly want to know what you’re writing about because you don’t want to be caught as the saying goes, with a foot in your mouth. Also having false information will really hurt the work you’re putting out and also the credibility to you as an author for future political cartoons down the road. Also some of the best political cartoons are ones that have the most knowledge and really makes you think about how there are more than one points being proven or sent in the cartoon than just the simple main one. This is where things like surroundings and other peoples interactions in your cartoon come into play.

The last major advice to focus on when writing a political cartoon is to be aware of other current events and who you will be writing to. If you are making fun of George Bush don’t expect to make much success writing for a Texas news paper where he was born and raised. Your success depends on your readers and their input so make sure you are aware of who the peoples favorites are. Also another thing that is crucial is to makes sure you are on top of current events in politics. In the political world a new event, a new tragedy, a new tid-bit is occurring all the time so you will need to produce your work quickly yet thoroughly in order for it to be any good. Don’t go and do a cartoon about something old now because it won’t be as interesting as something that just recently happened within the recent month.

So when working on a political cartoon we learned to focus on certain major areas in order to be successful. Political Cartoonists focus on humor, cartoon surroundings, knowledge, and current events. These are four major factors that make a political cartoon successful. These four things add to the negativity that most political cartoonists have in a project that they are working on. This is why negativity is a strong factor along with the other four mentioned in making a good political cartoon.