

Drawing a Political Cartoon

Now it is your turn to create a political cartoon. You will draw a cartoon to express a point of view about an issue of importance to you.

OBJECTIVES

In this assignment you will:

- Draw a cartoon that communicates your point of viewpoint on an issue of importance while learning about India and Gandhi.
- Write a SEEPS paragraph about your cartoon on the bottom of the SEEPS rubric. This will be stapled on the back of the cartoon.

Materials:

- Drawing pencils (HB and H)
- Unlined paper, 8½ x 11 (start with newsprint while you're sketch out your ideas and move to smoother paper when you ink your cartoon)
- Tracing Paper (optional)
- Fine felt tip markers and/or ink

Additional Materials that you may choose to use

- Colored pencils
- Inks, black and/or colored
- Watercolors and brushes (optional)

How to Proceed:

Before you begin, you may find these steps helpful.

1. Write down your feelings or what you want to make a statement about.
2. Begin your sketch by lightly using a soft pencil like an HB or B--not a hard pencil like an H. The softness refers to the lead of the pencil.

Rough paper or an inexpensive sketch pad will be fine in the beginning; you'll be making lots of sketches.

3. Play with your figure(s). Exaggerate! Enlarge or stretch an image or part of it to draw attention to it. You can present a point of view by including techniques such as, caricature, exaggeration, stereotyping, humor, historical references, and others.

- Use tracing paper to help you view different changes without having to draw the whole picture again. Draw the figure; cover it with tracing paper and copy the major features and make the changes you want to explore.
- Flip the drawing around to see if it works better in the opposite direction.
- Add shading if you think that will make your image funnier, more interesting, and easier to see.

4. Experiment with different ways to add more details. Draw in the background to suggest a sense of place.

5. Experiment with different papers. Try out colored pencils.

6. Decide a caption for the cartoon; add dialogue, if you choose. Decide if you want a bubble or square box for the dialogue of the characters.

7. Pencil in the lettering, making sure it is readable, well spaced and dark enough to see. Use a hard lead pencil (an H) for lettering.

8. Using a fine tip felt pen, or pen and ink, ink in your cartoon. Add color if you like. Be certain the paper you've chosen will work for the ink you choose; be certain it is not so porous that the lines of your drawing will become blurred. If you choose to color with watercolor, remember to start with very light color. You can always darken a color; you can't make it lighter!

9. Write a SEEPS paragraph about your cartoon on the bottom of the SEEPS rubric. This will be stapled on the back of the cartoon.

Work slowly and enjoy what you are doing. This could be the beginning of a new direction as an illustrator!

Ideas to help you

Sketching is the exploring of a shape with line, a kind of playing around with it until you get the exaggerated shape and facial expression you want.

Form: the 3-D quality of a shape suggested by shading suggest space and may be a plus for your drawing. Your cartoons will have flat shapes. You can add the suggestion of form by adding cross-hatching for texture, color for interest, and variation of line thicknesses to enhance your point of view.

Technique: simple contour lines can make a powerful point depending on the message you are trying to send. A contour drawing is merely an outline. These lines give your drawing a sense of balance, rhythm, movement, repetition and pattern that contribute to the over all message.

Style: pen and ink shading that suggests a rounder shape or form. The closer the lines or dots, the darker the shade.

Process: A step by step procedure. Draw only the outline of the object first. Study the bends of this outline. You can add inner contours as well to help define the shape.