

Cartoon Analysis Worksheet – Sample Answers

It's Still A Representative Government – They Represent Us

Level 1

Visuals

1. List the objects or people you see in the cartoon.
 - The U.S. Capitol building
 - A man sitting on the building with a badge that says: Big Money Interests
 - A smaller man standing in front of him holding a piece of paper that says: One Person, One Vote

Words

1. Identify the cartoon caption and/or title
It's Still a Representative Form Of Government – They Represent Us
2. Locate three words or phrases used by the cartoonist to identify objects or people within this cartoon.
Big Money Interests on the man sitting on the Capitol; One Person One Vote on the smaller man
3. Record any important dates or numbers that appear in the cartoon
N/A

Level 2

Visuals

2. Which of the objects on your list are symbols?
U.S. Capitol
3. What do you think each symbol means?
The building is the Capitol, which is where Congress meets. The Capitol is often used to represent Washington, D.C. and the federal government.

Words

4. Which words or phrases in the cartoon appear to be the most significant? Why do you think so?
Big Money Interests because it is located on the man sitting on the Capitol and your eye is drawn to him.
5. List adjectives that describe the emotions portrayed in the cartoon.
The larger man looks happy and boastful. The smaller man looks frustrated and defeated.

Level 3

- A. Describe the action taking place in the cartoon
The man sitting on the Capitol is looking down at the smaller man. The smaller man is looking back up at him.
- B. Explain how the words in the cartoon clarify the symbols.
The words on the larger man clarify that he represents Big Money Interests and is not just a random larger person.
- C. Explain the message of the cartoon.
The cartoonist has the larger man sitting on the Capitol with the sign representing interest groups conveying the message that interest groups are represented in our government. The fact that he is much bigger than the man holding the "One Person, One Vote" paper conveys the message that interest groups are a bigger influence than an individual's vote in the government.
- D. What special interest groups would agree/disagree with the cartoon's message? Why?
People who represent interest groups might disagree with this cartoon as well as members of the government. They would disagree with this because it paints them in a negative light. Average citizens might agree with this cartoon because they might feel as if their votes don't count and government doesn't represent their interests.