

Group Lesson
1 class periods

A People's Guide to the Federal Budget
Chapter 4

Cartoon Analysis – Lobbying

Objective:

Students will utilize a primary source – a political cartoon – to analyze and to categorize political messages and meanings.

Description:

1. Break students into groups or pairs.
2. Provide each group/pair with a copy of the political cartoon on lobbying found in Chapter 4 of *A People's Guide to the Federal Budget*, or project the cartoon in the front of the class.
3. After reading the chapter and distributing cartoon to groups:
 - ⤴ Students will describe to each other what is happening in the cartoon.
 - ⤴ Students will list words and phrases that they do not understand and, using dictionaries or computers, look up words.
 - ⤴ Students will categorize the lobby statements. (Note: students should come up with their own categories through discussion within their group.)
4. Groups will share their categorized statements with the class.
5. Groups will answer the following questions:
 - ⤴ What is the message of this political cartoon?
 - ⤴ Does your group believe the author has a specific political message? If so, what is it?
 - ⤴ Why is lobbying an important part of democracy?
 - ⤴ Why could it be problematic? Students should give as many specific examples as possible.
6. Extension Activity: Upon completion of group cartoon analysis and discussion, students may individually respond to the following questions in a one-page paper:
 - ⤴ Why is lobbying an integral component of our democracy?
 - ⤴ When, or why specifically, if at all, can it be problematic?