

How to: Cartoon Analysis

When describing a cartoon it is wise to proceed in a certain order. Before you start writing, get prepared by following the two steps below:

1. Study the cartoon carefully and try to figure out what message the artist wants to convey with it.
2. Take a closer look at the details and decide whether they contribute to the message or not. Only those aspects that contribute to the message are relevant and ,therefore, have to be described later on.

Once you have completed the first two steps, you can start describing what is going on in the cartoon.

WAIT: FIRST YOU NEED AN INTRODUCTION!

3. Then Describe:

- where the situation is taking place,
- which characters are involved, what they are doing
- what they are talking about.

THE INTRODUCTION CONSIST OF:

KEEP IN MIND!

Use the present tense
Don't just copy the speech bubbles,
use your own words.

4. Interpret the cartoon and explain what the cartoonist wants to express with the cartoon. --> Point out how far the details you described in the first part contribute to the message.

Conclusion:

1. Say whether you think the picture or cartoon is effective or not and give reasons for your opinion (refer to the quality of the cartoon, the colours used, the depiction of people, symbols,...)
2. Read your full description once again and correct your mistakes (grammar, spelling, vocabulary).

KEEP IN MIND:
Your reader has never seen the cartoon before, therefore, he should be able to understand everything without seeing the picture.