WORKSHEET 1
Introducing Political Cartoons

DIRECTIONS:
Complete the Cartoon Analysis Worksheet using your assigned cartoon.
Identify the message that the artist is communicating through this cartoon in the designated space below the image.
Identify a recent news story that you can relate to this cartoon in the designated space below the image.
Write a caption to relate the cartoon to today’s issues in the designated space below the image.
Prepare to share your responses with the class.

Message

News Story

Caption

Message

News Story

Caption
Article I of the United States Constitution outlines the powers of the legislative branch of the government (Congress), and Article II outlines the powers of the executive branch (the Presidency). Each of the cartoons below refers to the constitutional powers of the branches, or their relationship to the people and each other.

DIRECTIONS:

Place each caption card in the space below the cartoon it best matches.

Discuss the cartoons and captions to formulate a hypothesis on what these cartoons say about Congress and the Constitution.

Select one cartoon that best matches today’s politics and write a caption that ties it to a contemporary issue.
WORKSHEET 3

Congress is the Elected, Representative Branch of Government

Article I of the United States Constitution establishes the House of Representatives and the Senate as distinct representative bodies with balanced responsibilities and the power to act together to create legislation. Each of the 435 House members represents a district while each of the 100 Senators represents a whole state.

DIRECTIONS:

Place each caption card in the space below the cartoon it best matches.
Discuss the cartoons and captions to formulate a hypothesis on what these cartoons say about Congress and the Constitution.
Select one cartoon that best matches today’s politics and write a caption that ties it to a contemporary issue.
The legislative process in Congress is complex, but it allows every member of the House or Senate to introduce bills. A bill usually advances first to a committee which researches, debates, and amends the bill before reporting a successful bill to the full body for debate, further amending, and votes. Only a small fraction of bills introduced in any Congress become law. The process of lawmaking incorporates many points of view on any topic being considered.

DIRECTIONS:
Place each caption card in the space below the cartoon it best matches.
Discuss the cartoons and captions to formulate a hypothesis on what these cartoons say about Congress and the Constitution. Select one cartoon that best matches today’s politics and write a caption that ties it to a contemporary issue.
Worksheet 4 continued

Caption

Caption

Caption

Caption
The Founders separated the legislative and executive power into two different branches of government and created balances between them. Article I of the Constitution outlines the powers of Congress, and Article II outlines those of the President. In most cases, the powers described in the two articles are complementary and result in shared authority. As these cartoons by Clifford K. Berryman suggest, effective governing often requires compromises between the two branches.

DIRECTIONS:
Place each caption card in the space below the cartoon it best matches.
Discuss the cartoons and captions to formulate a hypothesis on what these cartoons say about Congress and the Constitution. Select one cartoon that best matches today’s politics and write a caption that ties it to a contemporary issue.
Political parties play a crucial role in shaping how Congress works. The House of Representatives is controlled by the party holding the majority of seats. The Senate has a more complicated structure wherein the majority party sets the schedule, but the minority party can exercise great influence of the pace of events and can prevent many issues from coming to a vote.

DIRECTIONS:
Place each caption card in the space below the cartoon it best matches. Discuss the cartoons and captions to formulate a hypothesis on what these cartoons say about Congress and the Constitution. Select one cartoon that best matches today's politics and write a caption that ties it to a contemporary issue.
Each Member of the House and each Senator represents a group of voters, makes laws for the nation, and participates in fulfilling specific constitutional duties of the House or Senate. House Members represent, and are accountable to, the voters of one of the 435 districts spread across the 50 states, while Senators represent a whole state. Each election represents an opportunity for voters to evaluate the work of their Representative or Senator.

**DIRECTIONS:**

Place each caption card in the space below the cartoon it best matches. Discuss the cartoons and captions to formulate a hypothesis on what these cartoons say about Congress and the Constitution. Select one cartoon that best matches today’s politics and write a caption that ties it to a contemporary issue.
# CARTOON ANALYSIS WORKSHEET

## Level 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visuals</th>
<th>Words (not all cartoons include words)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. List the objects or people you see in the cartoon.</td>
<td>1. Identify the cartoon caption and/or title.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Locate three words or phrases used by the cartoonist to identify objects or people within the cartoon.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3. Record any important dates or numbers that appear in the cartoon.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## Level 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visuals</th>
<th>Words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Which of the objects on your list are symbols?</td>
<td>4. Which words or phrases in the cartoon appear to be the most significant? Why do you think so?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. What do you think each symbol means?</td>
<td>5. List adjectives that describe the emotions portrayed in the cartoon.</td>
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## Level 3

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Describe the action taking place in the cartoon.</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. Explain how the words in the cartoon clarify the symbols.</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. Explain the message of the cartoon.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>D. What special interest groups would agree/disagree with the cartoon’s message? Why?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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REFLECTION QUESTIONS

DIRECTIONS:
Discuss each of the following questions in your group.
Take notes on your discussion, and prepare to share your results with the whole class.

1. What types of human characters did Berryman include in this selection of cartoons? How and why might cartoons drawn today differ?

2. What types of nonhuman characters did he use in cartoons? How did he give them human characteristics and suggest their political significance?

3. Just based on the cartoons – leaving aside the captions matched to them on the Worksheets – what was Berryman’s opinion of Congress as an institution?

4. In your opinion, which of the cartoons studied in this lesson best expresses what Congress does and why it matters to the American people?

5. What can today’s citizens learn about Congress and the Constitution from studying cartoons by Clifford K. Berryman?