

ACTIVITY PLAN



Satirizing Women Candidates

! NOTE: Please read “How To Use These Materials” for additional support in teaching and adapting this media literacy activity.

Grade Level: High School and College

Objective Options:

- Students will reflect on change and continuity over time in public perspectives on women seeking the presidency.
- Students will analyze satire in political cartoons to discern point of view.
- Students will consider media satire as a means to promote the common good.
- Students will cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of an author’s purpose.
- Students will contemplate how different people understand media messages differently.

S Standards Options

C3 Framework Social Studies Concepts	D2.Civ.14.9-12
	D2.His.2.9-12
Common Core ELA Standards	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.6
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.11-12.1

Vocabulary:

Victoria Woodhull, Hillary Clinton, glass ceiling, satire

Media Type(s): cartoons



Get Thee Behind Me (Mrs.) Satan
Thomas Nast Cartoon, 1872



Ditch the Witch
Ben Garrison Cartoon, 2016

Preparation and Materials:

*All materials can be downloaded from the PLS website <http://www.projectlooksharp.org>

Preparation:

- Download and review the *How to Use Materials* section associated with this activity.

Materials for the Lesson:

- Five-slide PowerPoint

Additional Support:

- From the website, view [Media Decoding Examples](#) demonstrating classroom media analysis.
- Download the [Key Questions for Analysis](#) for supporting questions.
- [The Teacher's Guide to Media Literacy](#) and the [Do-It-Yourself](#) online guide are both available from the homepage.

Time: 10-40 minutes (dependent on number of questions used)

Activity Procedures:

- Select among possible questions on the next page based on your objectives in teaching to social studies content and/or ELA/media literacy skills.
- Use the selected questions to lead students through a constructivist media decoding process of the three handouts with informational text. Background information about the media documents is included at the bottom of the next page. Example student answers are included on the last page.

CONNECTIONS

Connections to Media Construction of Presidential Campaigns Lessons Using Satire

1800 "The Providential Detection" Cartoon
1832 "Aristocrat/Workingman" Cartoon
1860 Douglas "Taking the Stump" Cartoon
1868 "White Man's Government" Nast Cartoon
1872 "Greeley and Tweed" Nast Cartoon
1900 "McKinley and Millionaire Advisor" Cartoon
1904 Teddy Roosevelt "New Diplomacy" Cartoon
1936 "Makers of History" Cartoon
1936 "An Attack on the New Deal" Cartoon
1968 LBJ and Vietnam Poster
1972 "Landslide" Cartoon
2000 Saturday Night Live Debate Skit
2004 "Doonesbury" and "Boondocks" Comic Strips
2008: Clinton/ Palin cartoons
2008 New Yorker cover and editorials

DECODING Q'S

Possible Questions for Media Document Decoding

Select among these based on your teaching objectives. Make questions document-based (i.e. According to this image or video...)

Social Studies

- What might these editorial cartoons suggest about change and continuity in how women have been perceived as candidates for the highest office between 1872 and 2016?
- In what ways might political satire impact human rights?

ELA

- What is the cartoonist's message about the candidacy of the woman portrayed?
- What is satire?
- How does the cartoonist use satire to express a point of view?

Media Literacy

- How might different people understand these media messages differently?
- Who might benefit from this message and who might be harmed by it?
- What values are implied in this cartoon?
- When was this made and how does the historical context shape the message?
- What are the sources of the assertions made in the cartoon?

Follow up Evidence Questions & Comments

- Where do you see that?
- Say more about that
- How do you know that?
- What makes you say that?
- Does anyone have a different idea?

BACKGROUND & SOURCES

Victoria Woodhull ran for president in 1872 nearly fifty years before the women's suffrage movement won the right for women to vote in presidential elections in the United States. She was the candidate for the Equal Rights Party and an advocate of free love, rejecting marriage as an oppressive institution and embracing sexual freedom. No votes for her were recorded or tallied. Hillary Clinton ran for president in 2016, nearly one hundred years after women's suffrage was approved. She became the first female candidate nominated by a major party, gaining over 15 million votes in the Democratic Party primaries. Some opponents charged that she was unfit for office based on allegations of misconduct while serving as Secretary of State under president Obama.

Garrison, Ben. "New Cartoon "Time to Ditch the Witch"." GrrrGraphics on WordPress, 21 June 2016. Web. 08 Sept. 2016

Nast, Thomas. "Get Thee Behind Me, (Mrs.) Satan!"" Cartoon of the Day. HarpWeek, Web. Sept.-Oct. 2016.

POSSIBLE ANSWERS

Social Studies

Question: What might these editorial cartoons suggest about change and continuity in how women have been perceived as candidates for the highest office between 1872 and 2016?

Possible Answers: *Change* – Hillary Clinton has been nominated as the candidate of her major party in 2016 with a real chance to win the presidency. Victoria Woodhull was nominated in 1872 by a small party at a time when women did not have the right to vote in U.S. presidential elections. She had no chance to win. *Continuity* – Many people, like these two cartoonists, continue to see women candidates as unfit to be president.

ELA

Questions: What is the cartoonist’s message about the candidacy of the woman portrayed? How does the cartoonist use satire to express a point of view?

Possible Answer: *Woodull:* Victoria Woodhull is unfit to be president since she will lead women down a dangerous path with her advocacy of free love. Nast uses exaggeration and ridicule of satire by representing Woodhull in the caption and image as a horned “Mrs. Satan,” attempting to lure a woman burdened by babies and a drunkard husband down the treacherous mountain trail of “free love.”

Possible Answer: *Clinton:* Hillary Clinton is unfit to be president because she is a dangerous and greedy criminal. Garrison uses mocking satire to caricature Clinton as a wicked witch with a contemptible expression and money bag earrings while portraying Donald Trump as a truth-telling savior swooping down on the back of the American eagle to save the country.

Media Literacy

Question: How might different people understand these media messages differently?

Possible Answers: Some might agree that Woodhull and Clinton are evil forces as satirized by the cartoonists. They might be glad to see their truth exposed in this manner. Others might take a feminist analysis and suggest that these two male cartoonists are biased against the idea of a woman in a leadership position and that they are employing woman-hating artistic techniques to further their sexist assumptions.

Question: Who might benefit from this message and who might be harmed by it?

Possible Answers: Those who oppose woman’s right to gain high office might benefit from these cartoons as might the cartoonists themselves who stand to gain potential financial profit and acclaim from some for what might be seen as “truth-telling” about dangerous female interlopers. The candidates themselves might be harmed if potential voters are persuaded to not vote for them as a result of this cartoon. Others harmed might be those who support these and other women candidates who seek to gain high political office