**Applied Government Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Town Hall Poster Board Project  
Mr. Faulhaber Class Period\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Political Cartoon/Meme Town Hall Poster Board Project and Silent Debate Assignment**

BACKGROUND: At the start of just about every class period, we watch a video clip to prepare us for our lesson and/or to reinforce class material. Many recent clips, and likely the majority going forward, (if *USA Today Punchlines* gets rolling again) have been satirical. Although satire has long been part of politics in America, only recently has it played such a dramatic role in shaping public opinion and influencing election outcomes. For example, SNL sketches of the 2008 presidential contenders profoundly shaped opinion about candidates (i.e. Sarah Palin) and voting preferences. Many people no longer get their news from traditional media and instead rely on satirists like Jon Stewart’s Daily Show (now hosted by Trevor Noah), Stephen Colbert, and other “news” outlets for their information of the world and current events (and often the only place they news). Today, social media memes are shaping how we view events, place them in context, and initiate political discussions. These memes are an evolution of political cartoons and, like political cartoons, are designed to influence us into taking a stance on a particular policy issue by conflating issues through exaggeration. Although their use has brought forward interest and awareness in issues of public importance, they have often also had many negative effects such as minimizing the depth of the issue and drawing false comparisons. Russia, through bots and troll farms, successfully used social media and memes to negatively affect our views of candidates (mostly Hillary Clinton) in 2016 and have been found doing so again in this 2020 election along with Iran and China according to the national intelligence community.   
  
Regardless of its use by foreign interventionalists for nefarious purposes, satire is not going away and will likely become more prevalent. More importantly, satire is closely tied with America and was often used by our revolutionary forbears to drum up support for separation from Great Britain and establishing the United States. Consequently, the Supreme Court has routinely granted wide protection to satirists based upon the belief that such mechanisms are what the founders had in mind when crafting the First Amendment with the understanding this political speech that excoriates political leaders in an attempt to persuade fellow citizens holds our leaders accountable for their decisions. Our goal, then, is to apply our growing understanding of satire as a weapon to make a political statement and understanding current events to its effect on public opinion outlined in chapter 7 to better learn how the former shapes the latter.

PROJECT: Your project, which should be on a poster board or butcher paper from the library, will include an issue you find timely and worthy of discussion. You may work individually, with a partner, or in a small group on the poster board but each project should include each of the following elements:

* A snappy, attention grabbing title and/or quote
* A brief but thorough description of the issue in an objective (non-biased) manner
* 2 or more (depending on the size of the group) memes/political cartoon that represent the various sides of the debate
* Leading questions for debate that get respondents to opine on what you (your group) believes is the heart of the issue
* Directions for respondents to engage in the debate

The political cartoon or meme can be drawn free hand, electronically, or found on-line (cite your source) and should:

* Fosters a discussion and makes your classmates think and react
* Is appropriate for the classroom
* Persuasive/Convincing
* Addresses a modern issue that is governmental related

**Remember: write your op-ed in plain language with the understanding that the reader does not always have the same knowledge as you**

The poster board should be hung up outside my classroom before class on Tuesday, September 8th when we will have a silent debate in class and hopefully will have many others comment throughout that week. At the conclusion of the week, you will choose two classmates to come in and evaluate/critique your project based upon the political cartoon/meme and the discussion it fostered. From those evaluations/critiques you will self-grade your project.   
  
Depending on how much we like this project, one of the upcoming projects could be an SNL-type Skit and/or TikTok-type satirical video.

**Peer Evaluation #1 Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Peer Being Evaluated\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**DIRECTIONS: Read through each category and its criteria***.*  Place a check plus next to those you believe your classmate completed in an exceptional manner, a check plus/check mark if it was only completed well, a check mark next to the criteria in which you completed okay, a check mark/check minus if it was completed okay but not great, a and a check minus that your classmate completed but not very well, and place an X next to the criteria not completed at all.   
 ***\*\*\*Remember, a perfect grade should reflect perfect work and only be used when the work done had no deficiencies & could not have been performed any better***.\*\*\*.

* **CONTENT COVERED**

\_\_\_\_\_Discussed a ***contemporary*** issue in the news   
\_\_\_\_\_Accurately describes facts of the issue, history, and issue or concept involved in an objective, non-biased manner

\_\_\_\_\_Created a snappy, attention grabbing title and/or quote that accurately reflects the issue  
 \_\_\_\_\_Included political cartoons/memes that reflected both (all) sides of the issue and in an equitable manner

\_\_\_\_\_Arguments generated employ insight of the issue and differing perspectives

\_\_\_\_\_Cited verifiable facts and included citation of where they came from

\_\_\_\_\_Created guiding questions(s) that helped lead

\_\_\_\_\_Got material across in a way that informed readers to easily understand the issue and respond intelligently

* **EFFECTIVENESS OF POSTER BOARD**

\_\_\_\_\_Creativity: Was dynamic and had interesting elements to draw attention and wasn’t boring, dull, or blah

\_\_\_\_\_Fostered Discussion that was relevant, informed, and intelligent (or at least created those possibilities)

\_\_\_\_\_Clarity: clear arguments and positions on the issue presented

\_\_\_\_\_The poster board was neat, did not look thrown together

\_\_\_\_\_Spelling/Grammar: The use of language, word choice, and sentence structure enhanced the arguments

\_\_\_\_\_Poster Board did not contain ANY spelling errors or distractible mistakes

**Comments**:

1. List and discuss 2-3 positives of the project

2. List and discuss 2-3 critiques of the project or areas of improvement

3. Final Thoughts:

**Peer Evaluation #2 Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Peer Being Evaluated\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**DIRECTIONS: Read through each category and its criteria***.*  Place a check plus next to those you believe your classmate completed in an exceptional manner, a check plus/check mark if it was only completed well, a check mark next to the criteria in which you completed okay, a check mark/check minus if it was completed okay but not great, a and a check minus that your classmate completed but not very well, and place an X next to the criteria not completed at all.   
 ***\*\*\*Remember, a perfect grade should reflect perfect work and only be used when the work done had no deficiencies & could not have been performed any better***.\*\*\*.

* **CONTENT COVERED**

\_\_\_\_\_Discussed a ***contemporary*** issue in the news   
\_\_\_\_\_Accurately describes facts of the issue, history, and issue or concept involved in an objective, non-biased manner

\_\_\_\_\_Created a snappy, attention grabbing title and/or quote that accurately reflects the issue  
 \_\_\_\_\_Included political cartoons/memes that reflected both (all) sides of the issue and in an equitable manner

\_\_\_\_\_Arguments generated employ insight of the issue and differing perspectives

\_\_\_\_\_Cited verifiable facts and included citation of where they came from

\_\_\_\_\_Created guiding questions(s) that helped lead

\_\_\_\_\_Got material across in a way that informed readers to easily understand the issue and respond intelligently

* **EFFECTIVENESS OF POSTER BOARD**

\_\_\_\_\_Creativity: Was dynamic and had interesting elements to draw attention and wasn’t boring, dull, or blah

\_\_\_\_\_Fostered Discussion that was relevant, informed, and intelligent (or at least created those possibilities)

\_\_\_\_\_Clarity: clear arguments and positions on the issue presented

\_\_\_\_\_The poster board was neat, did not look thrown together

\_\_\_\_\_Spelling/Grammar: The use of language, word choice, and sentence structure enhanced the arguments

\_\_\_\_\_Poster Board did not contain ANY spelling errors or distractible mistakes

**Comments**:

1. List and discuss 2-3 positives of the project

2. List and discuss 2-3 critiques of the project or areas of improvement

3. Final Thoughts:

**Self-Evaluation Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Poster Board Project Grading Sheet:**

**DIRECTIONS: Read through each category and its criteria***. Complete either or both columns to give yourself an accurate grade.*   
  
In the LEFT column: Place a check plus next to those you completed in an exceptional manner, a check plus/check mark if it was only completed well, a check mark next to the criteria in which you completed okay, a check mark/check minus if it was completed okay but not great, a and a check minus that you completed but not very well, and place an X next to the criteria not completed at all.   
  
In the RIGHT column: Place the appropriate grade in the space to the immediate left of EACH criteria required by determining those areas you performed or were lacking and based upon the point value listed. Place a N/A or “not applicable next to any criterion not required for your specific role. Average the points together in place that score in the “your estimate” blank.   
 ***\*\*\*Remember, a perfect grade should reflect perfect work and only be used when the work done had no deficiencies & could not have been performed any better***.\*\*

**Your Grade**

* **PREPARATION**  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/10

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Properly used class time to complete project   
\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Put in multiple hours outside of class

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Gathered necessary information for other to be knowledgeable about policy, issue, or concept

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_If in group, an attribute and not a parasite; put in an equal amount of work as partners and did not inhibit work

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Spent necessary time on project to fulfill requirements and make poster board effective

* **CONTENT COVERED** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/10

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Addressed a policy, issue, or concept issue in a thoughtful and respectful manner with both(all) sides represented

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Accurately describes facts of the issue, history, and issue or concept involved in an objective, non-biased manner

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Background of issue was written with cohesive sentences free of distracted spelling, punctuation, or grammatical errors.

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Got material across in a way that informed readers to easily understand the issue and respond intelligently  
\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Created a snappy, attention grabbing title and/or quote that accurately reflects the issue  
\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Included political cartoons/memes that reflected both (all) sides of the issue and in an equitable manner

* **EFFECTIVENESS OF POSTER BOARD**  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/10

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Creativity: Was dynamic and had interesting elements to draw attention and wasn’t boring, dull, or blah

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Poster board was neat, did not look thrown together and appropriate for the classroom

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Fosters a discussion and makes your classmates/peers think and react

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Fostered Discussion that was relevant, informed, and intelligent (or at least created those possibilities)

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Clarity: political cartoons/memes were easy to understand and provided clear arguments/positions on the issue

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Addresses a modern issue that is governmental related and relevant to American Political Values chapter

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Cartoon/Meme and issue jibed in an organized manner that flowed logically and clearly **TOTAL\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/30**  
  
**OVERALL PERFORMANCE:** How would you rate your preparation, knowledge and understanding of the issue, and performance in regards to your peers? What did your parent(s), guardian(s), or adult(s) in your life think of your project? Did the rubric give you the correct grade? Explain. If the overall score determined through the rubric is different from the grade you believe you deserve explain why and the grade you believe is warranted.