**Political Cartoon Analysis**

**Due Date: 9 Monday January 2017**

**\*\* NOTE: Political Cartoons are controversial and sometimes offensive, thus, your verbal explanation of your perspective is vital to the success of your argument. \*\***

**Assignment Background:** According Raymond A. Schroth, SJ, a professor, author, former member of the armed forces in the mid-1950s, literary editor of America Magazine, and Jesuit priest ordained in 1967, “The number one goal of the media is to manipulate and persuade public opinion.” (Loyola University, New Orleans 1988)

**Assignment Explanation**: In America, political cartoons have been employed to persuade public opinion since the mid-1700s. Increased newspaper and magazine circulation in the 1800's became a turning point in the use of political cartoons for encouraging political, cultural, and economic revolution. Political cartoons inspired, and still do encourage the expression of viewpoints within historical time periods, and, the actions taken by citizens or rulers of countries throughout world. Political cartoons also allow people to contemplate political, social, cultural, ethnic, economic, and legislative matters.

* **Research**: In order to create an accurate cartoon that depicts multiple perspectives in regard to an issue(s), you must first research your topic/concern using reputable on-line, educational, magazine/newspaper articles, your text book, the class library of magazines, provided article, or, our college’s data bank links:
* <https://www.fsw.edu/library> or <https://www.jstor.org/>

**Objectives:** Students will gain a better understanding of visual literacy and the power of political cartooning as well as the persuasive power the media engulfs in our society – locally, nationally, and globally.

* Students will gain a better understanding of their next unit by independently introducing themselves to, as many believe to be, the most influential period in our world’s history *–* ***The Enlightenment****.*
* Students will gain a better understanding of visual literacy and the power of political cartooning as well as the persuasive power the media controls in our society locally, nationally, and globally.
* Students will, too, learn and explore the various techniques employed by political cartoonists that reveal varying perspectives in regard to controversial topics and events, and, in the end, decide for themselves whether or not the Enlightenment ever ended, or, perhaps we are in continual Enlightenment.
* In the end, students will accomplish these objectives through the technique of political cartooning.

**Tasks:**

1. The class will first review the techniques and descriptions (definitions) of the various techniques used by political cartoonists, as well as examples from award winning editorial/political cartoons of 2016.
2. Next, the class will analyze each of the cartoons within the class handout.
	1. Students will independently a comment form for each of the cartoons by responding to the questions linked to each cartoon.
3. Next, students will explore their next chapter (Chapter 22 – Enlightenment and Revolution) for topics of their interest.
	1. These topics may, **AND**,probably should revolve around issues of the past you perceive occurring **TODAY.**
4. Finally, each student is responsible for researching, analyzing, and creating a political cartoon of their interest **in regard to the time period known as** ***The Enlightenment.***
	1. Students will create a political cartoon that includes:
		1. A **minimum** of 2 techniques reviewed
		2. The cartoon may be illustrated in black and white, or color
			* **PRINTOUTS ARE NOT ALLOWED**
		3. The cartoon must be illustrated upon a white sheet of paper and affixed to a standard 10x12 piece of construction paper
		4. The cartoon must have the artists signature on the front bottom right (Your name printed back, please)
		5. A verbal explanation of the techniques employed, as well as your own explanation of the **topic** displayed in the cartoon is mandatory.

**Assessment:** **PLEASE REVIEW** the rubric for this assignment.