

Cartoons for the Classroom

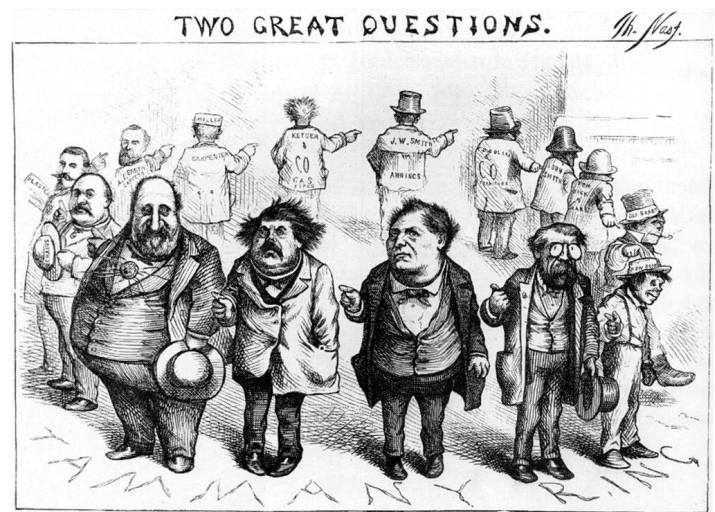


Presented in cooperation with the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)

Drawing inspiration

Borrowing from the past to comment on today's various predicaments

Three different eras, three different issues, one common theme: Someone else is to blame. Thomas Nast's 1871 stinging indictment of Boss Tweed's corrupt Tammany Ring in New York is the obvious inspiration for these toons by later cartoonists. Politicians are adept at passing the buck and it's the job of the political cartoonist to spotlight their hypocrisy. Strip away the issues, ignore the personalities and the cartoonists leave you with one clear message. Politicians would have you believe none of them are guilty when, in fact, all of them are guilty.



WHO STOLE THE PEOPLES MONEY? - DO TELL. N.Y. TIMES. 'T'WAS HIM.

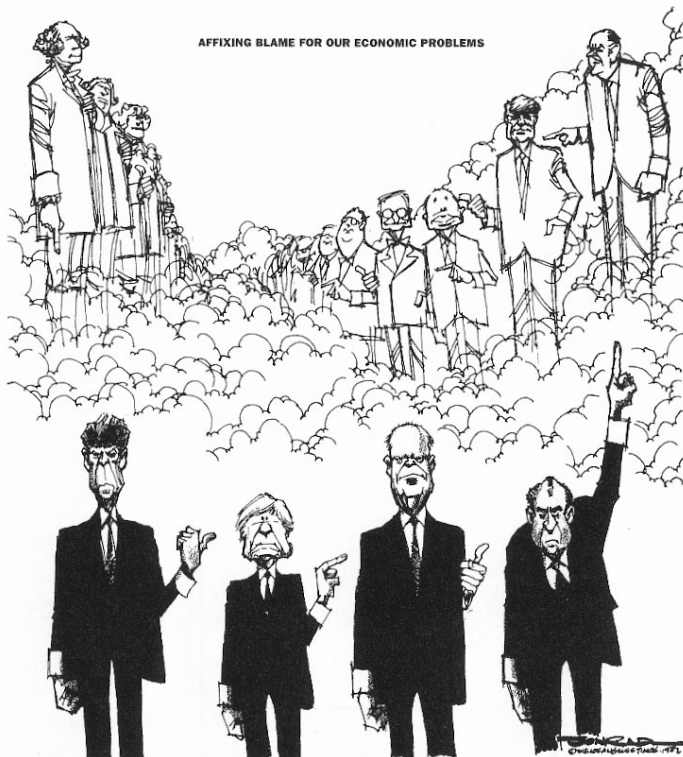
Talking points:

Write a short definition for each of the following.

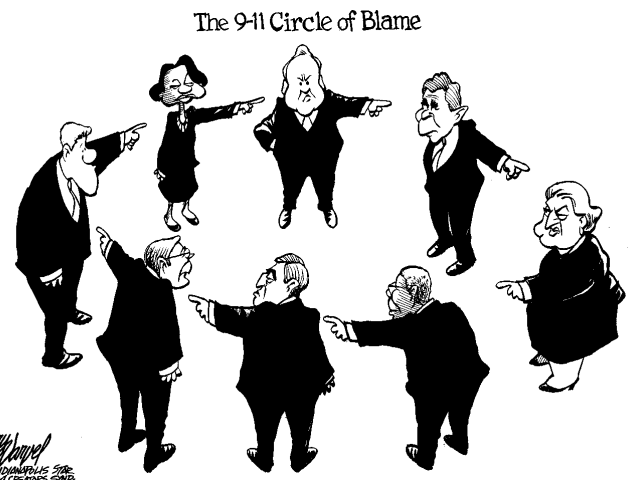
Inspiration _____

Plagiarism _____

Paul Conrad lampoons the American tradition of blaming previous administrations for today's problems. Gary Varvel tightens the circle of blame for 9/11 to the Clinton and Bush teams. When does inspiration become plagiarism? Explain the similarities and differences in these three toons. Discuss drawing style and message.



Paul Conrad, 1982 / Copyright Tribune Media Service International
Reprinted with permission



GARY VARVEL
THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR
©2001 CREATIVE ARTS

Courtesy Gary Varvel / Indianapolis Star, 2004

Additional resources

Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)

<http://editorialcartoonists.com/>

Morton Keller essay, *The World of Thomas Nast*

<http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu/cgaweb/nast/keller>