

# **BREAKING DOWN HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS**

# WHAT HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS DO WE LOOK AT?

- Documents
- Songs
- Poems
- Photos
- Paintings
- Cartoons

**DOCUMENTS, SONGS,  
POEMS**

# THINGS TO LOOK FOR?

**1.** Author

**2.** Date

**3.** Key Words

## AN EXAMPLE

- **“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”**
  - **Declaration of Independence, 1776**

- 1.** It is stating the basic rights that men are guaranteed.
- 2.** Men are entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
- 3.** The Declaration of Independence is the document that declared the Colonies from the British.

# ANOTHER EXAMPLE

Dred Scott v. Sandford, March 6, 1857

- Declared that the Missouri Compromise was unconstitutional
- Declared that Congress did not have the authority to prohibit slavery in the territories
- Declared that slaves were not citizens of the United States and could not sue in Federal courts
- How did the ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court in Dred Scott v. Sandford (1857) increase sectional tension in the United States?

- **The ruling declared that regardless of location, slaves were not citizens, which Northerners viewed as a violation of state law and human rights.**



Education then, beyond all other devices of human origin, is a great equalizer of the conditions of men,—the balance wheel of the social machinery. . . . The greatest of all the arts in political economy is to change a consumer into a producer; and the next greatest is to increase the producing power,—and this to be directly obtained by increasing his intelligence.

-Excerpt from Horace Mann, Twelfth Annual Report to the Massachusetts Board of Education as Secretary of Massachusetts State Board of Education, 1848

- According to this quote, why is education essential to American society?

# EDUCATION IS NECESSARY FOR ECONOMIC PROGRESS



# PICTURES & PAINTINGS

# WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Colors
- Size of images
- Focal Point of the Picture
- Details → Tells a story
- If A Date/Title is Provided
- Break the picture into sections, it tells a story.



# WASHINGTON CROSSING THE DELAWARE

- The details of the image show that Washington is crossing a river full of ice which aligns with the story of Washington crossing the Delaware.
  - The Flag
  - Washington
  - Ice in the river
  - Soldiers



# BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG

- **The Two Flags**
- **Fighting**





# LEWIS & CLARK

- **2 Males, 1 Native American Female**
- **Their Clothing → Frontiersmen**

# POLITICAL CARTOONS



- **What Should You Look For In Political Cartoons?**

# SYMBOLISM

- Using an object to stand for an idea.



# CAPTIONING AND LABELS

- Used for clarity and emphasis.

**PARESH**  
THE KHALEEJ TIMES  
Dubai  
U.A.E.



# ANALOGY

- Comparison between two unlike things that share some characteristics



# IRONY

- The difference between the way things are and the way things should be or the way things are expected to be





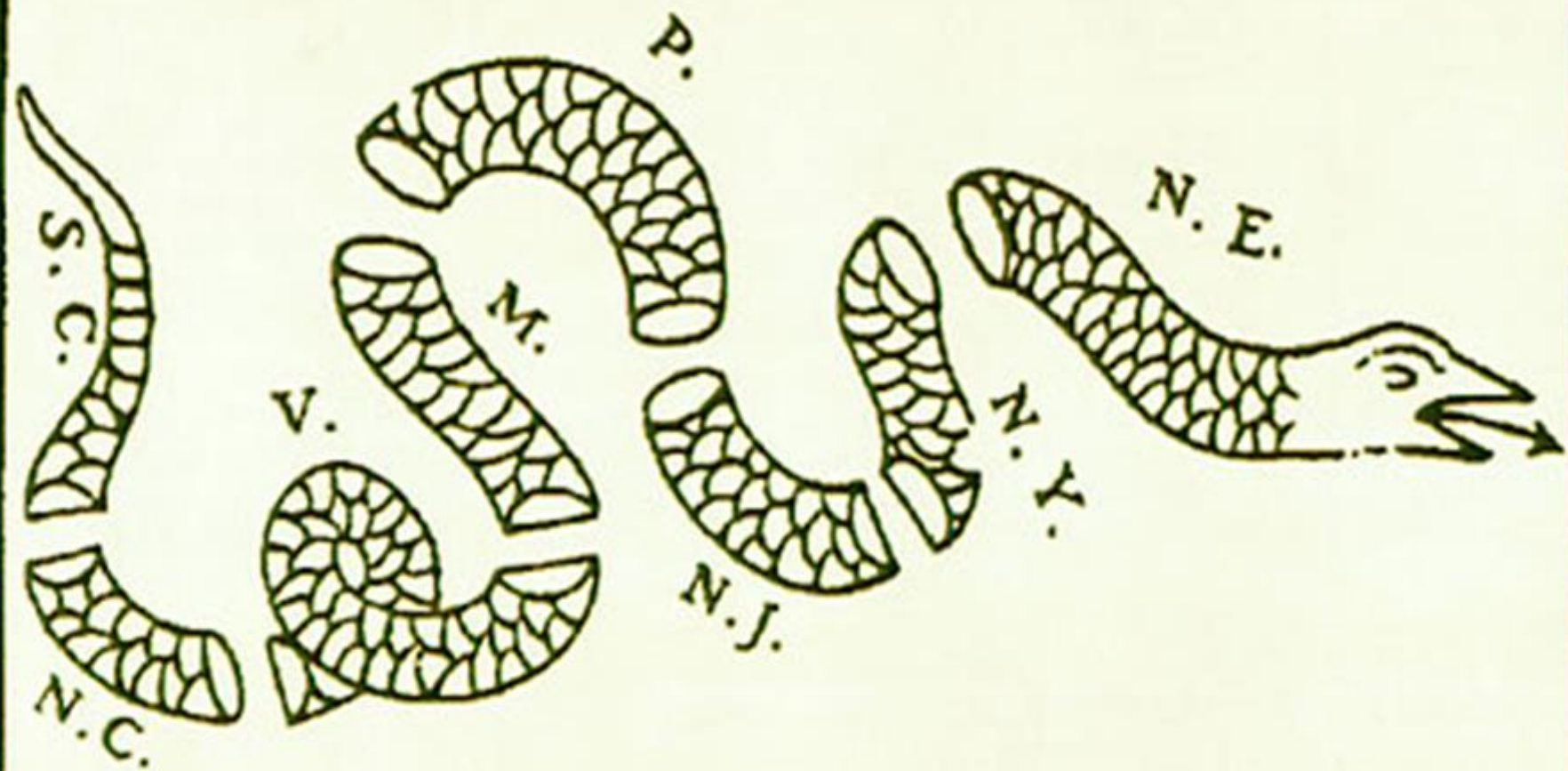
# EXAGGERATION

- Overstating or magnifying a problem or a physical feature or habit.



# THINGS TO LOOK FOR

- Powerful people are usually fat, large people
- Weak people are usually skinny, small people
- Green – environmental
- Red – communist
- Good guys usually wear white
- Bad guys usually wear black



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J O I N, or D I E.

# THE FIRST ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS



Sure, I've made a couple of mistakes...





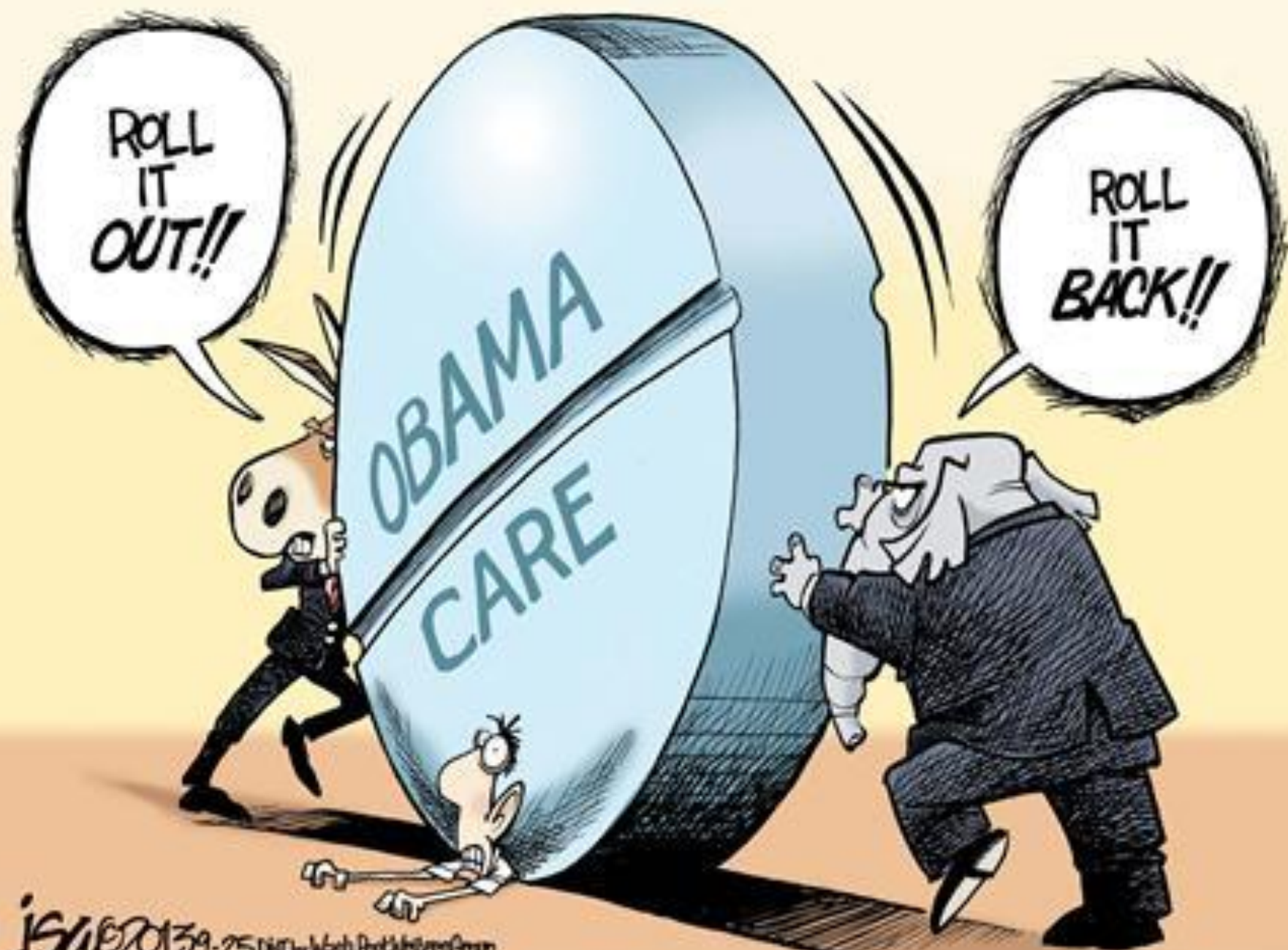
“...AND AMERICA, WHAT BIG GOVERNMENT YOU HAVE!”



# LOOPHOLES







# ACTIVITY

- I am giving you a packet of documents to break down.
- We will work out the first one together.
- If you do not finish, it is homework.

# **HOMEWORK**

**Get your course  
syllabus signed!**