

How to analyse an iconographic document

	Detailed procedure	In-depth analysis of the document
Introduction	<p>The work, the artist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Nature of the medium (to be precised each time) : Postcard, photograph, political leaflet, advertising poster, caricature, drawing, work of art, other... ✓ Size and source : original dimension of the work, where did you get it from ?, any specific artistic movement ? ✓ The author : His name, dates of birth and death, date of creation, major features (2 lines maximum) 	
	<p>Sponsor(s), addressee(s), distribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Sponsor(s) : A person, the State, a Trade Union, a political party, an anonymous sponsor, other ... give precisions... ✓ Addressee(s) : To be put on a wall, in the mail, in the press, or sold in a shop ✓ Distribution : City, area, country, private, public, group. 	
	<p>The specific context of the era</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Its nature : political, social, economic, scientific ... ✓ Double context ? Is there a time gap between the work and the event or the scene represented ? Does it matter ? Explain... 	
Description	<p>General description</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Description based on fore and background, on characters (how many, who , attitudes) ✓ colours (light, dark, warm, cold) contrasts... 	
	<p>Detailed description</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The characters, objects, setting : Size, place, position(s), expression(s), gestures... ✓ The text : style, fount, tone, location... 	
Analyse, interpretation	<p>Graphic analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Lines of construction, groups, geometrical shapes, vanishing lines, lighting(s), relations... 	
	<p>Interpretation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The message : glorification, praise, enhancement, criticism, satire, denunciation, libel, neutral, ironic or accusing tone... : . Its elaboration : Symbols, allegories, a caption (why ? What for ?) 	
	<p>Similar works and/or techniques dealing with the same issue, theme, topic.</p>	
Conclusion	<p>Authenticity of the document</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The means : Exaggeration, simplification, anything hidden ? any confusions, stereotypes, lies ? psychological levers resorted to ? ✓ Would you say the document is unbiased ? ✓ 	
	<p>Why did you choose this document ?</p>	