

# HOW TO DESCRIBE A DOCUMENT?

## First step: Present the document

### 1. Type of document

This document is a ... / What we have here is :

A photograph / a painting / a cartoon / a strip cartoon / a drawing (in colour-in black and white)/ a caricature / an advert / a chart / a map / a poster / a snapshot / a book cover / a newspaper front page / a humorous picture...

### 2. Source & Author

It dates from ... / It appeared...

It comes from ... / It is an extract from ... / It is an advertisement for ...

It was drawn by ... / painted by ... / taken by ... / made by ... (a painter / a photographer / an advertiser ...)

It was made by a man / a woman / someone called ...

The photo was taken by ...

The name of the artist is ... / is not mentioned / does not appear.

He/She is (not) famous. I (don't) know him/her

### 3. Topic & Goal

The document represents.....illustrates.....shows...

The painting criticizes.....proves....informs....

The author wants to show...convince...make people realize...think about...

## Second step: Describe the document

### 1.Location (Where? When?)

The scene takes place in.../The setting is....

### 2.Characters (Who?)

Use the vocabulary!

*In the foreground / in the background*

*In the middle / on the right / on the left / at the bottom*

*In the lower part / in the upper part / at the top*

*In the top left-hand corner (en haut à gauche) / in the bottom left-hand corner (en bas à gauche)*

I can see...It shows...It represents...

Number? Gender? Age? Physical appearance? Gestures? Mood?

There is...There are...

She is wearing.../He is sitting...standing...eating...

He looks sad/bored/anxious/scared/upset/cheerful...

### 3.Objects (What?)

Shapes? Colours? Contrast? Lines?

It is composed of...

There is a contrast between...and....

Neutral, cold or warm colours?

### 4. Action

What happened before? What is happening? What will happen after?

## Third step: Analyze the document

### (Why?)(Context?)

The author suggests that ... / (s)he wants to show that ... / His or her aim is to ... / (s)he criticizes or suggests that ... / (s)he makes fun of ... / (s)he condemns ...

It relates an event/an argument... It tells a story...It is about...

## Fourth step: Give your opinion

I like / I don't like / I dislike / I find the document interesting, boring, amusing, shocking, modern, funny, strange, convincing, beautiful...because.....

It makes me think of ... / It reminds me of ... / What I like or don't like about the document is ... /

In my opinion...To my mind...

To conclude, to sum up, I would say that ...