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Grade level: 10

Primary Source Citation: "We Can't Digest the Scum," Billy Ireland, Columbus Dispatch, reprinted in Billy Ireland, March 4, 1919. Accessed at The Opper Project: Using Editorial Cartoons to Teach History.

Show pictures either on an overhead or on an LCD projector to students and have them analyze the documents using the following questions. These questions will prepare students to think critically when observing primary source documents.

Level I: Description

- 1. What is the title of this cartoon?
- 2. What does the pot say?
- 3. Who is in this cartoon?
- 4. In what year was this published?

Level II: Interpretation

- 1. What is Uncle Sam doing?
- 2. Explain "melting pot"?

Level III: Analysis

- 1. What is the "scum"?
- 2. How does this represent the fear of Communism?

