

## Background Information

### Clues for Identifying Worldviews

Elements of worldview	Evidence to look for
<b>View of human nature</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look for negative or positive qualities of people highlighted in the text or image.</li> <li>• Look to see if the author supports policies or practices that imply a view of the goodness of people; e.g., capital punishment or minimum sentences may be related to a belief that human nature is evil.</li> </ul>
<b>View of the good life</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there an emphasis on accomplishments and benefits of hard work or on enjoying the pleasures of life; e.g., holidays, leisure pursuits, entertainment, eating and drinking?</li> </ul>
<b>Equality with others</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there concern for the welfare of all, e.g., basic human rights for all, or is there support for special rights for some; e.g., private medical care, a political elite?</li> </ul>
<b>Responsibilities to others</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the author or artist suggest that people should look out for themselves first, e.g., condone or praise people who have succeeded at others' expense, or that people should help others; e.g., volunteer or protect others?</li> </ul>
<b>Relationship between the individual and the state</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the author or artist champion the protection of individual rights; e.g., work of the Canadian Civil Liberties Union or Amnesty International support for victim's rights versus the rights of the perpetrator?</li> </ul>
<b>Relationship of humans with nature</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the author or artist suggest that humans are justified in using the natural world for their own benefit, e.g., mining, capturing animals for zoos, or that human beings should revere and safeguard nature; e.g., protection of unique ecosystems?</li> </ul>
<b>Sources of ethical wisdom</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the author or artist believe in a divine source of ethical wisdom, e.g., look to religious perspectives for ethical direction, or suggest other source of ethics; e.g., look to science as a source of ethics?</li> </ul>