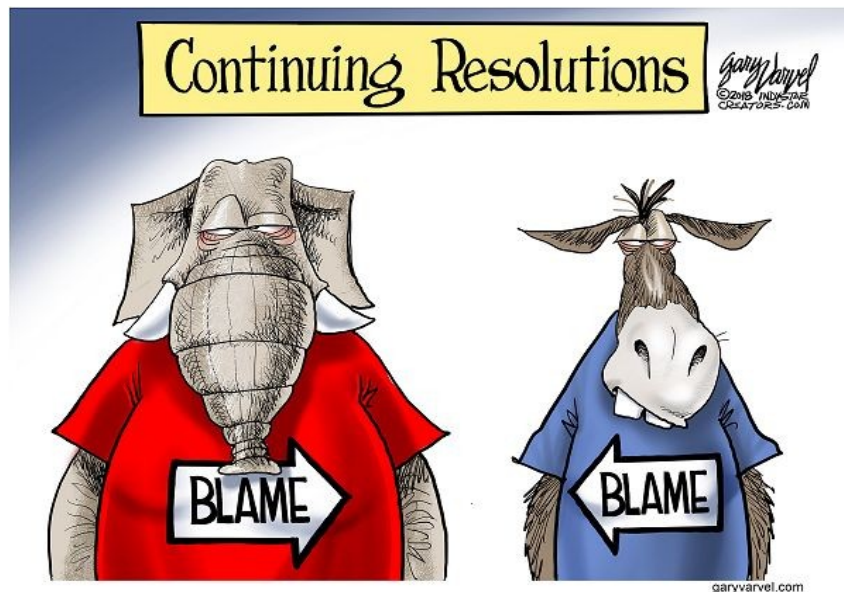


# Cartoons for the Classroom

Presented by NIEonline.com and the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)



## Blame game part of a broken system?



Gary Varvel, Indianapolis Star / Courtesy of AAEC

### Talking Points

1. What are these cartoons saying about the recent government shutdown?
2. What did Republicans and Democrats say about their standoff?
3. Why do the opposing political parties seem to be unable to compromise?
4. How much faith do Americans have in the nation's political leaders?
5. Do the stalemates and growing public dissatisfaction damage American democracy?

### Between the lines

"Americans see a government that does not govern because elected officials are either self-serving or are driven by the ideological extremes ..." - Patrick Murray, Monmouth University Poll

[https://www.monmouth.edu/polling-institute/reports/MonmouthPoll\\_US\\_010418/](https://www.monmouth.edu/polling-institute/reports/MonmouthPoll_US_010418/)

### Additional resources

■ [More by Gary Varvel](#)

<http://editorialcartoonists.com/cartoon/browse.cfm/VarveG>

■ [More by Clay Bennett](#)

<http://editorialcartoonists.com/cartoon/browse.cfm/BenneC>

■ [Association of American Editorial Cartoonists](#)

<http://editorialcartoonists.com/>



Clay Bennett, Chattanooga Times Free Press / Courtesy of AAEC