

Cartoons for the Classroom

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



Between the lines

Rudy Giuliani, the former mayor of New York City, is seeking the Republican nomination for the 2008 presidential campaign. In the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center, Giuliani was hailed by many for his leadership during the crisis. But some firefighters resent the way the former mayor treated the department before and after Sept. 11. His role as a voice of calm and confidence at a time of fear and uncertainty plays large in his campaign.



Courtesy Matt Davies / The Journal-News

Tooning into the candidates: Rudy Giuliani

Talking points

1. Matt Davies takes a jab at the Republican Party with his caricature of Rudy Giuliani standing atop the rubble. The caption "History suggests I'm your man," refers to Giuliani's reputation as leader in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. Why does the artist equate the Republican party with a disaster?
2. There are plenty of labels included in this toon as an effort to make the message clear. Would you understand the cartoon if the words 2008 Republican Party weren't part of the drawing? Is the elephant a strong enough symbol for the Republican Party for you?
3. Is this toon complimentary to the candidate or critical? Does the artist support Republicans? Does the artist support Giuliani's candidacy? How would you craft a rebuttle to the cartoon?

Get out your newspaper

Gather a collection of political cartoons that deal with the presidential campaign from your newspaper. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon and explain the artist's message as well as the artist's point of view. Find news stories dealing with the issues covered by the toon and determine whether you agree with the stance in the toons.

Additional resources

Association of American Editorial Cartoonists
<http://editorialcartoonists.com/>

More Matt Davies
<http://davies.lohublogs.com/>