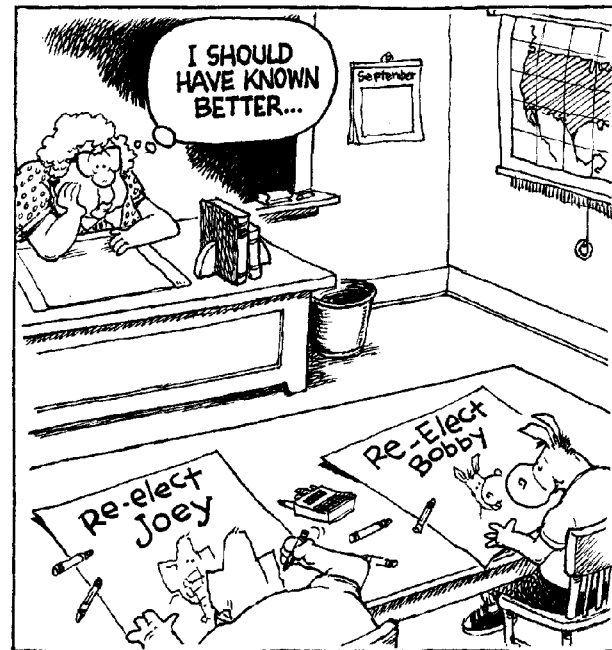
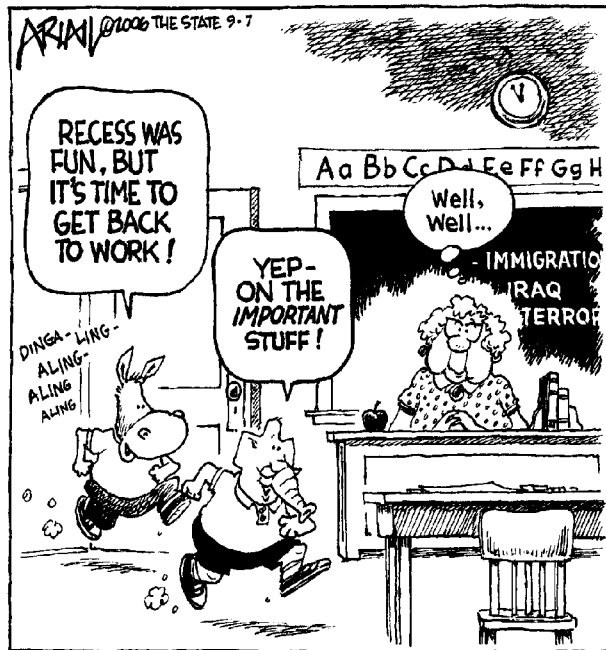


Cartoons for the Classroom

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



Cartoon Courtesy Robert Ariail / The State

Between the lines

- ▶ Midterm elections, such as those on Nov. 7, 2006, are elections in the United States in which members of Congress are elected, but not the President.
- ▶ All 435 House of Representatives seats, 33 of 100 Senate seats and 36 state governorships are at stake in the 2006 midterm election.
- ▶ In order to reclaim control of Congress, Democrats must pick up 15 House seats and six Senate seats.

Re-election is job 1!

Talking points

1. Robert Ariail's cartoon pokes fun at the political process that emphasizes re-election rather than working on the nation's business. The teacher is obviously disappointed. Why? According to the cartoon, what "lessons" did the teacher expect her pupils to tackle?
2. Do you think elected officials spending too much of their time raising money instead of doing the job they were elected to do? How did you reach your conclusion? What does the media say? Is that where you got the justification for your position? Does media shape politics?
3. What matters most in an election or re-election campaign -- accomplishments or scandals? Which attract the most attention? What kind of advertising do you notice during a campaign?

Get out your newspaper

Gather a collection of political cartoons from your newspaper. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon and explain the issues addressed and determine the artist's point of view.

Additional resources

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

More by Robert Ariail
<http://www.comics.com/editoons/ariail/>