

# Cartoons for the Classroom



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



Cartoon courtesy Matt Wuerker / Politico.com

## Tooning into the campaign **All eyes on Iowa**

### Talking points

1. In Matt Wuerker's toon, candidates for the presidential nomination are working hard to impress Iowa voters in advance of the Jan. 3, caucus, the first real test of the 2008 campaign. Why is winning Iowa so important? How many past presidents won Iowa? (Look it up!). How many lost in Iowa but won anyway?
2. Wuerker displays eight caricatures in his toon. Label each candidate you recognize.
3. What kind of promises do you think would impress a voter in Iowa? Are they the same issues voters in your state would care about?

### Get out your newspaper

Gather a collection of political cartoons from your newspaper dealing with campaign issues. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon and explain the issues addressed. Find newspaper stories about the issues and re-evaluate the issues and the opinions expressed.

### Additional resources

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

### Between the lines

Since 1972, the Iowa caucus has been the first major electoral event of the nominating process for President of the United States. It has served as an early indication of which candidates for President of the United States might win the nomination of their political party at that party's national convention.

### Why's Iowa first?

Iowa's "First in the Nation" status in the presidential nomination process came about as the result of rule changes the Democrats put in place in the late 1960s and early 1970s. In 1976, the Republican Party of Iowa moved their caucus to the same date as the Democrats. The candidates and national media have observed the Iowa caucus as the "First in the Nation" ever since.

### Challenges

Critics say too much attention is paid to a relatively small state that does not represent the nation as a whole. Supporters say campaigning in Iowa is one-on-one with voters, and forces candidates to do more than just broadcast television commercials.

More by Matt Wuerker: <http://editorialcartoonists.com/cartoon/browse.cfm/WuerkM/>