

Cartoons for the Classroom



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



Courtesy John Darkow / Columbia Daily Tribune, Missouri

Drawing English into the spotlight

Between the lines

On May 18, 2006, the Senate voted to make English the official language of the United States. Moments later it adopted a milder alternative amendment, calling English the "national language" rather than the "official language." The issue moves to the House of Representatives as part of a final Immigration Reform bill to be considered later this year.

Additional resources

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

More by John Darkow
<http://www.columbiatribune.com/Darkow>

Talking points

1. Does this cartoon defend or attack the movement to make English our official language? Everybody in the toon is voting "yes," but in their own language. What does that imply? Are they all Americans?
2. Can you name the nine cultures represented in the toon? Where would you look up the variations of "yes"?
3. The English-language debate has roiled U.S. politics for decades. Why is it important? What effect might it have? After debating these questions in class, vote on the issue.

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.