Cartoons for the Classroom

Learning to interpret a convention

Now that the Democrats and Republicans have completed their nominating conventions, what exactly did we learn? Seemed awfully important, didn't it? All those speeches and all those interpretations of all those speeches. Each party did its best to tear down the other. And predictions say the campaigns will now get even nastier! Heck of a way to pick our leaders, isn't it. But then, it works. Doesn't it?
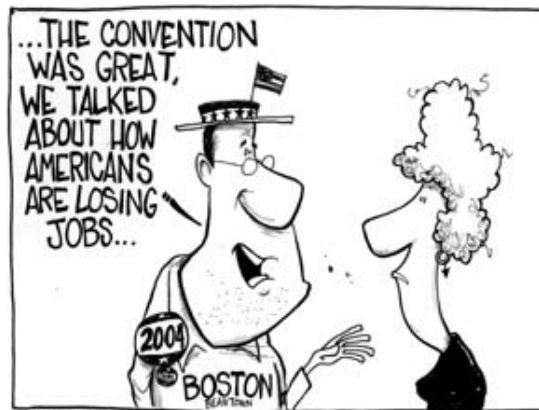
Get out your newspaper

Gather a week's worth of political cartoons from your newspaper. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon and discuss the campaign issues raised. Are the cartoonists hitting issues we should care about? Explain.

Cartoons courtesy Eric Devericks / Seattle Times
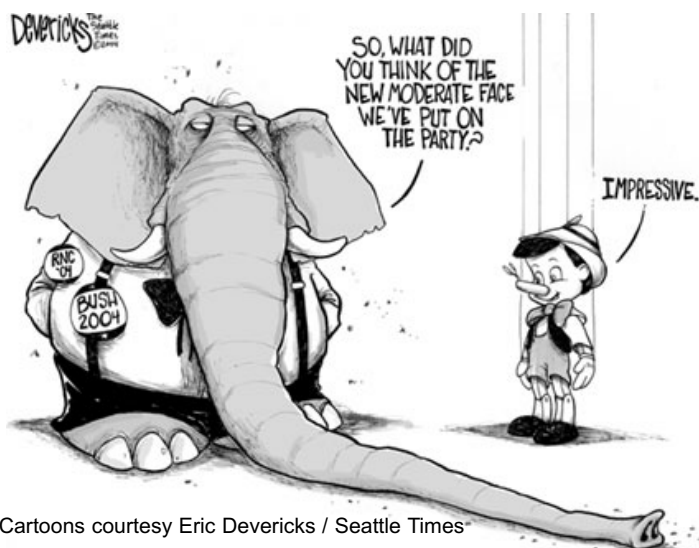
Talking points:

As each political convention wrapped up, Seattle Times cartoonist Eric Devericks found something to criticize in each party.

1. The delegate to the Democratic National Convention lists some pretty awful items discussed in Boston Why would he be so "optimistic?"

2. In the toon above, it's obvious the Democrats blame President Bush for the problems. Is that fair? Explain the issues from the Dems perspective.

3. At left, Pinnocchio is impressed with the length of the elephant's nose. Explain the symbolism.

4. Moderate, Liberal, Conservative, Left, Right. These are all political terms you hear tossed about during campaigns. Can you define them? (That's a toughy.) Which party fits which label most closely?

Additional resources

Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)
http://editorialcartoonists.com/

More by Eric Devericks
http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/editorial/cartoon/