

Cartoons for the Classroom



Presented in cooperation with the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)

Primary targets

Use toons to track the election

Presidential primary season (January through June) is the perfect time to start a scrapbook of campaign cartoons to track the election and maybe even learn something about our election process. New Hampshire and Iowa, the earliest primaries, provide the first real test of the candidates as well as help determine which issues are beginning to gather the most voter attention. Political cartoonists record the events and the ebb and flow of issues from a unique perspective. To understand the cartoons, you'll have to understand the issues, recognize the effect of current events and evaluate the opinions being offered.

Get out your newspaper

Start a scrapbook of campaign cartoons by culling them weekly from your newspaper starting with the first caucus and primary. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon and identify the issues explored. As the campaigns evolve, you'll be able to track how the players and the issues change through the political cartoons you've gathered and the analysis you've written.



Courtesy Mike Lester /The Rome News-Tribune

Talking points:

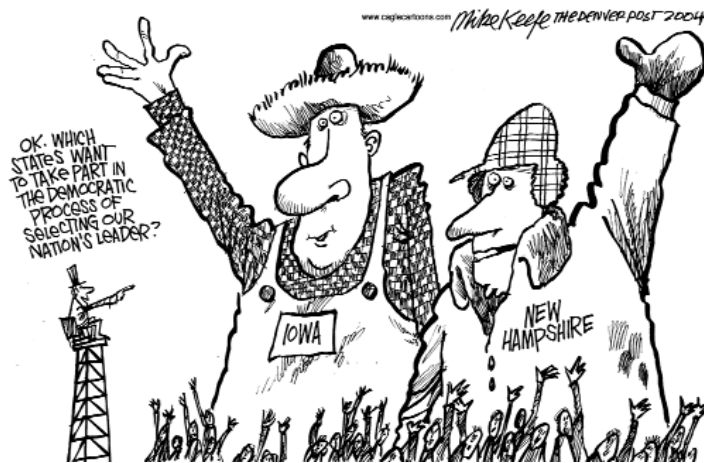
Write a short definition for each of the following.

- Primary election _____
- Caucus _____
- Delegates _____

In Mike Keefe's observation at left, Iowa and New Hampshire -- for the moment at least -- are giants among the states. Explain why these two states are treated as king makers. Remember that Bill Clinton finished fourth in Iowa and second in New Hampshire before moving on to capture the White House in 1992. More likely, Iowa and New Hampshire may at least tell us who the next president won't be. Can you explain how?

Additional resources

Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)
<http://info.detnews.com/aaec/>
Mike Keefe's cartoon website: <http://www.intoon.com/>
Daryl Cagle's Professional Cartoonists Index
<http://cagle.slate.msn.com/>



Courtesy Mike Keefe/The Denver Post