

Cartoons for the Classroom



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



Mike Keefe / The Denver Post

Between the lines

The death of Chief Justice William Rehnquist came two months after Justice Sandra Day O'Connor announced her retirement. The power to appoint Justices to fill those vacancies belongs to the President. But, the "advice and consent" of the Senate is required for any Supreme Court appointment. And politics plays a major role.

The constitutional battleground



Leilah Rampa / The Annistonstar

Talking points

1. In Mike Keefe's toon above, Democrats are dreaming of the day when they'll be rid of George W. Bush while a sculptor carves the President's portrait on to the Supreme Court building. The toon uses irony to get its point across. First define "irony" and then explain how it applies to this toon.
2. The Supreme Court decides constitutional issues. So why does politics enter into the selection of Justices?
3. Leilah Rampa's cartoon (published weeks before the confirmation process) predicts that the nation will once again be split, this time by the nomination of John Roberts to the Supreme Court. Has Roberts' nomination really caused that much controversy? Or public interest for that matter? Explain.

Get out your newspaper

Gather a collection of political cartoons from your newspaper dealing with the Supreme Court confirmation process. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon and determine the artist's point of view. Gather news stories about the process and evaluate the cartoonist's position based on the articles you read.

Additional resources

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

More by Mike Keefe at Cagle's Pro Cartoonist's Index
<http://www.cagle.com/politicalcartoons/PCcartoons/keefe.asp>

More by Leilah Rampa at the Annistonstar
http://www.annistonstar.com/www/as/columnists/lrampa_portfolio.htm