

# Cartoons for the Classroom



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



Courtesy Joel Pett / Lexington Herald-Leader

## The First Amendment? D'oh!

### Between the lines

A recent nationwide poll commissioned by the Chicago-based McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum found that more than one in five people could name all five members of the Simpsons cartoon family. But only one in 1,000 could list all five First Amendment freedoms. William B. Ketter, editor-in-chief of the Eagle-Tribune newspapers, suggests a novel solution: Produce an episode on how those freedoms impact the Simpsons in their everyday lives. If one could just get Bart and Homer arguing about it, maybe more of us would listen . . . and learn!

### Additional resources

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

More by Joel Pett

<http://www.kentucky.com/mld/kentucky/news/editorial/cartoons/>

### Talking points

1. Let's start with the easy question: Name the five members of the Simpsons family.
2. According to the study, you probably can't list all five freedoms covered by the First Amendment. But the punch line in the last panel of Joel Pett's cartoon gives you clues to four of those five freedoms. And a clue to the fifth freedom is kinda covered elsewhere in the toon. Does that help?
3. After this exercise at least you and your classmates will know the answers next time. But why do you think people know more about a cartoon family than the U.S. Constitution?

### 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.

For more First Amendment resources go to <http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org>