

Cartoons for the Classroom



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

Between the lines

The 1966 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) was designed to bring an end to the idea that government could operate behind closed doors. FOIA establishes a presumption that all government information is available to the public, subject only to a few rules. In order to hold the government accountable for its actions, citizens need to know what their officials are doing.

-- From the First Amendment Center
<http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/>



Courtesy Nick Anderson / Houston Chronicle

The right to know vs. government secrecy



Courtesy Ben Sargent / Austin-American Statesman

Talking points

1. How does government secrecy threaten our liberty, as argued by Nick Anderson (above)?
2. Ben Sargent reminds us that government is not a private club but is, in fact, owned by the taxpayers. Explain what that means.
3. Recent news events highlight the need to know what the government is up to. Which events - and disclosures - bother you the most?

Get out your newspaper

Gather a collection of political cartoons from your newspaper dealing with government actions. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon and explain the issues addressed.

Additional resources

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

More by Nick Anderson
<http://nickandersoncartoons.com/>

More by Ben Sargent
<http://www.statesman.com/opinion/content/editorial/sargent/>

For more Sunshine Week resources go to <http://sunshineweek.org/>