

Cartoons for the Classroom



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

Between the lines

An Inconvenient Truth is a documentary film about global warming now playing in local theaters and starring former Vice President Al Gore. The movie's premise is summed up on the film's official website as: "Humanity is sitting on a ticking time bomb. If the vast majority of the world's scientists are right, we have just ten years to avert a major catastrophe that could send our entire planet into a tail-spin of epic destruction involving extreme weather, floods, droughts, epidemics and killer heat waves beyond anything we have ever experienced."



Courtesy Mike Lester / The Rome News-Tribune

Al Gore heats up a debate

Talking points

1. Is Mike Lester's toon above defending or attacking Al Gore's global warming contentions? How can you tell?
2. In the middle of melting ice caps, an angry polar bear threatens the drivers of a sinking car in Matson's toon. But the car's occupants claim they voted for Al Gore. If they did, would they really be driving an SUV? Explain.
3. The global warming issue always sparks debate. Is it a catastrophe we really can stop? Or is it Chicken Little yelling about the sky falling? How does the class feel about the issue. Do you agree with Lester or Matson?

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.



"YOU DON'T SUPPOSE HE'D BE IMPRESSED WE VOTED FOR AL GORE?"

Courtesy RJ Matson / Roll Call

Additional resources

AAEC

<http://editorialcartoonists.com/>

More by RJ Matson

http://www.rjmatson.com/index_js.htm

More by Mike Lester

<http://cagle.com/politicalcartoons/PCcartoons/lester.asp>