

Cartoons for the Classroom

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



Courtesy Michael Ramirez / Investors Business Daily

Between the lines

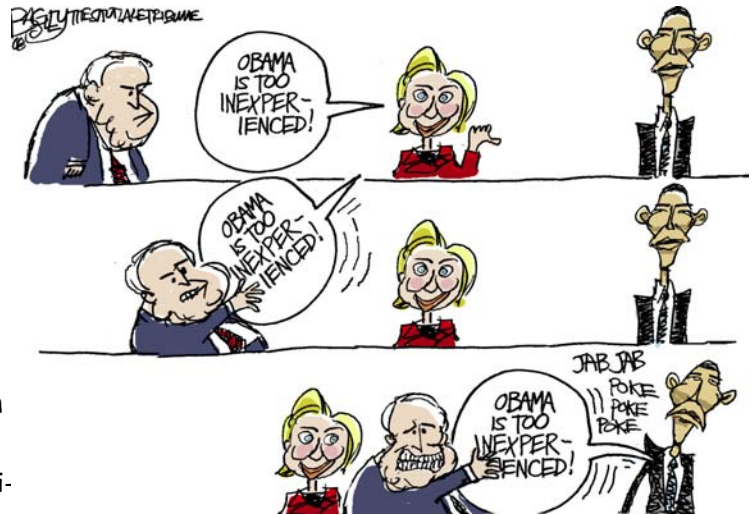
Britain's Telegraph explained the Charisma vs. Experience debate earlier this year:

"Senator John McCain is a 71-year-old war hero with Congressional experience ranging from military matters to foreign affairs, business regulation, immigration and climate change." "Barack Obama is a 46-year-old Senate neophyte who has been described as the most exciting arrival on the American political scene since Robert Kennedy in the 1960s. He presents himself as an inspiring potential president who could transcend partisanship and rekindle faith in government."

Tooning into the Campaign **Charisma vs. experience**

Talking points

1. Michael Ramirez sums up the differences between Obama and McCain by changing the emphasis on each candidate's campaign sign. Write a paragraph to explain the point of Mike's cartoon.
2. During the campaign for the Democratic party's nomination, Hillary Clinton argued that Obama was too inexperienced to be a viable presidential candidate. Explain how Pat Bagley's cartoon makes use of that fact.
3. Which quality is most important to you: Experience or Charisma? Do you want a leader who can motivate and inspire the country? Or do you favor a tested veteran with the proven capacity to make the important decisions that a president will face? Defend your stance.



Pat Bagley / Salt Lake Tribune, Courtesy Cagle Cartoons

Get out your newspaper

Gather a collection of political cartoons from your newspaper dealing with the election. 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
<http://editorialcartoonists.com/>

More from Pat Bagley
<http://extras.sltrib.com/bagley/>

More from Michael Ramirez
<http://www.ibdeditorials.com/cartoons.aspx/>