

Cartoons for the Classroom



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



Dario Castillejos / Dario La Crisis, Courtesy CagleCartoons.com

Between the lines

Demonstrations by Tibetan monks seeking autonomy for their region resulted in a violent crackdown by China in March, 2008. With the Olympics set to be held in Beijing in August, the Olympic Torch Relay route has become a focal point for demonstrations protesting China's human rights record. Confrontations in London and Paris turned violent. And countries are being pressured to boycott the Games.

Olympics & Politics Let the Games begin

Talking points

1. Dario shows angry Tibetan monks brandishing torches forming the flame for the Olympics torch. Does the cartoon support the Tibetan struggle? Or have the monks misappropriated the Torch. Which interpretation do you favor?
2. Mike Lester's toon, politics threatens to snuff the Olympic flame. Should politics intrude on the spirit of the Olympics? How can you stop it?
3. The Torch is just one possible symbol for the Olympics. What are some others? What symbols can you think of for China? What about Tibet?

Get out your newspaper

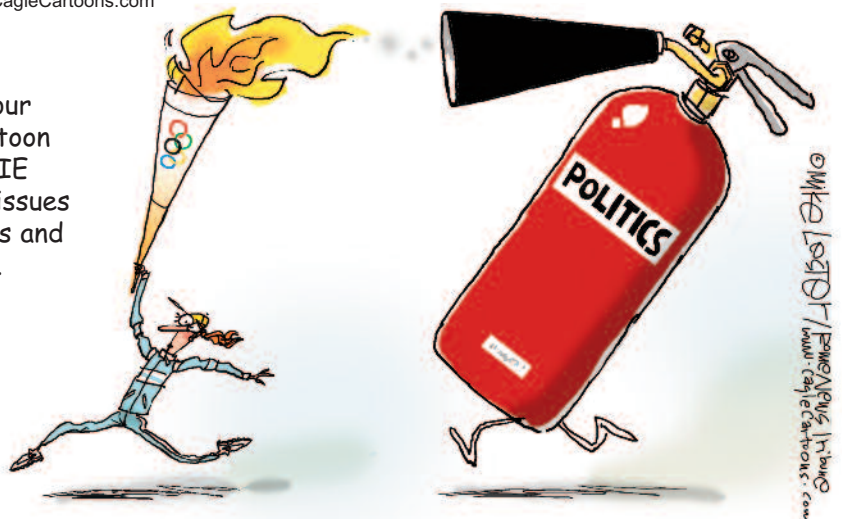
Gather a collection of political cartoons from your newspaper dealing with Olympics. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon and explain the issues addressed. Gather news stories about the issues and evaluate the opinions presented in the cartoons.

Additional resources

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

More by Mike Lester
<http://cagle.com/politicalcartoons/PCcartoons/lester.asp/>

More by Dario Castillejos
<http://cagle.com/politicalcartoons/PCcartoons/dario.asp>



Mike Lester/ The Rome News-Tribune, Courtesy CagleCartoons.com