

Cartoons for the Classroom



Presented in cooperation with the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)

Caricaturing the final innings of a campaign

America waits as candidates trade grand slams

According to the New York Times, by Election Day the political campaigns, the parties and outside groups will have spent about \$500 million getting their message out to the voters. You'd think it was the World Series! The campaign ads are getting more and more vicious as each party slams the other. The fans are divided and Election Day is just around the corner.



Courtesy Kevin Kallaugh (Kal) / The Baltimore Sun

Talking points

Kevin Kallaugh's take on the current stage of the presidential campaign uses a baseball game as a metaphor.

1. Look at the caricatures and the labels and figure out who the pitchers are in this "game". Do you need the labels?
2. Instead of aiming at the plate, these pitchers are aiming at each other. How does this cartoon's action relate to the real presidential campaign?
3. That's Uncle Sam with the bat. What visual clues tell you who it is? Who does Uncle Sam represent in this drama?
4. Has this battle just started? What clue does the artist give to show that this "game" has been going on for awhile?
5. While the batter waits at the plate and the pitchers are busy bashing each other, what are the other players on the field doing? Who might the other players symbolize? Explain the statement in the cartoon's balloon.

Get out your newspaper

Gather a week's worth of political cartoons from your newspaper. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon and discuss the campaign issues raised. Are the cartoonists hitting issues we should care about? Where do the cartoonists seem to stand on the issues? Whose side are they taking? What makes you so sure? Do you consider the cartoon fair or unfair? Do you agree with the cartoon's stance? Why or why not? What issue would you choose to draw in a cartoon?

Additional resources

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

More by Kevin Kallaugh
<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/cartoons/>