Great Expectations

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.

Additional resources

Association of American Editorial Cartoonists
http://editoralcartoonists.com/

More by Ed Gamble
http://editorialcartoonists.com/cartoon/browse.cfm/GamblE/

More by Dana Summers
http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/opinion/columnists/orl-summers-cartgallery,0,5845995.photogallery

Between the lines

“The expectations for this man are approaching euphoria and that could be setting the stage for a big disappointment. We’ve got big problems in this country and no one is going to wave a magic wand and fix them in a matter of weeks or months. It’s likely going to take several years.”

-- Jack McCafferty
CNN’s Political Ticker Blog

Talking points

1. Ed Gamble’s cartoon asks the question that has a lot of us worried: This won’t take long to fix, will it? How would you change the labels on the alligators to include other problems we face? Which other issues are more important to you personally?

2. Dana Summer’s cartoon asks the same question in a different way. But it also points out how unreasonable our expectations are. Explain how.

3. What’s the danger in setting our expectations for the new president so high? Exactly how long should we give him?