Between the lines

For 58 years until he retired in Oct., 2008, Jim Lange commented on the issues of the day in the Oklahoman. He created a "John Q. Public" character to represent the typical citizen struggling to understand the political maneuvers of the powerful. Lange died last week at the age of 82.

Talking points

1. John Q. Public is defined as a name designating an average or typical U.S. citizen. But how do you define "average?" What race should John Q. Public be? How old? What income level? Is there a Jane Q. Public?

2. A symbol for Everyman is very handy for cartoonists. Pick a social problem to editorialize about and then explain how your Everyman would react to it.

3. Can you think of of other examples of "Everyman" or "John Q. Public" in TV shows, comics or movies?

Additional resources

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