

Cartoons for the Classroom



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



Cartoon courtesy Pat Oliphant (c) 2007 The Washington Post. Reprinted by permission of Universal Press Syndicate. All rights reserved.

Between the lines

"We are choosing hope over fear. We're choosing unity over division, and sending a powerful message that **change** is coming to America."

-- Barack Obama

"I want to make **change**, but I've already made **change**. I will continue to make **change**. I'm not just running on a promise of **change**. I'm running on 35 years of **change**."

-- Hillary Clinton

"It's about people who love America but want it to be better and believe that **change** is necessary, and it's not going to happen from within Washington."

--Mike Huckabee

"Everywhere I go people say Washington is broken. And they know that those who've spent their careers in Washington can't **change** Washington. It's long past time to bring real **change** to Washington."

-- Mitt Romney

"The results show that the American people are ready for a president who will stand up to corporate greed and fight for hard-working families, someone who will fix the broken system in Washington and achieve real **change** in this country."

-- John Edwards

Tooning into the campaign: Politics of change

Talking points

1. In a recent Los Angeles Times article, Timothy Noah pointed out: "It's hard to think of a more meaningless political watchword than 'change,' but 'change' is what the presidential candidates are promising." Pat Oliphant's cartoon, published way back in February, 2007, shows that the 2008 campaign buzz word is not new. As the politicians line up to promise change, "Washington" relaxes, knowing that nothing will really change. What is it politicians are promising to change? What do you think needs changing? Why aren't candidates more specific?
2. Oliphant makes a point about "empty rhetoric." Define "rhetoric" (look it up) and explain what the cartoonist means by the phrase.
3. Examine the quotes from the candidates on this page. Which are Democrats and which Republicans?

Get out your newspaper

Gather a collection of political cartoons from your newspaper dealing with campaign issues. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon and explain the issues addressed. Find newspaper stories about the issues and re-evaluate the issues and the opinions expressed.

Additional resources

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

More by Pat Oliphant: <http://www.gocomics.com/patoliphant/>