

# Cartoons for the Classroom



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

Nate Beeler / The Washington Examiner, Courtesy Caglecartoons.com



The SWORDS of DEM-OCLES

## Between the lines

Unemployment figures in the United States hit a nine-month high last week, prompting fears that the country's economic recovery is faltering.

-- Aljazeera.net  
<http://goo.gl/2LOP>

Jobs and the economy will dominate debate in Washington this fall as Congress weighs whether to extend the Bush-era tax cuts and the campaigns begin for control of Congress.

-- Miami Herald  
<http://goo.gl/viP7>

## Talking points

1. You need to understand the symbols the cartoonists are using here to grasp the point they are trying to get across. What do donkeys represent in American politics? Each cartoon shows a calendar. What's the significance of the date?
2. The Swords of Dem-ocles is Nate Beeler's play on the "Sword of Damocles." Look up that reference and explain the allusion.
3. Nick Anderson focuses on one issue plaguing his donkeys -- unemployment -- while Beeler's cartoon adds more issues. Why are these issues causing concern among the donkeys? Why are they blamed for these problems?

## Additional resources

More by Nate Beeler  
<http://www.cagle.com/politicalcartoons/PCcartoons/beeler.asp>

More by Nick Anderson  
<http://blogs.chron.com/nickanderson/>

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

## Exploring the issues dogging the Dems



The Politics of Fear...

Courtesy Nick Anderson / Houston Chronicle