

Cartoons for the Classroom



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

Between the lines

On Dec. 9, 2005, the state of Washington outlawed smoking in public places and workplaces, as well as within 25 feet of doorways. In January, 2006, the Washington D.C. Council voted to join smoke-free cities like Boston, Dallas, Chicago and New York. In February, Calabasas, California, a Los Angeles suburb, voted to prohibit smoking in all public places, including sidewalks, parking lots and parks, with one of the toughest bans in the country. Proponents of anti-smoking laws cite health statistics about the risk of second-hand smoke. Opponents decry government intrusion. What's next, they ask, a ban on drinking? Fast food? And what about the economic impact the smoking restrictions cause? Some states rely on tobacco taxes to fund schools. What if everyone quit smoking?



Courtesy Tom Toles / The Washington Post

Social issues: Taking on tobacco

THE MARCH TO EXTINCTION...



Courtesy David Horsey / The Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Talking points

1. The cartoons here support smoking bans. Can you present arguments refuting the stance?
2. Tom Toles' toon pokes fun at an argument against the bans -- the cost to businesses. Explain Toles' twist on the argument
3. State your stance on the smoking ban and explain how you would illustrate it in a cartoon.

Get out your newspaper

Gather a collection of LOCAL political cartoons from your newspaper. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon and explain the issues addressed and determine the point of view of the artist.

Additional resources

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

More by David Horsey
<http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/horsey/>

More by Tom Toles at UComics.com
<http://www.ucomics.com/tomtoles/index.phtml>