

# Cartoons for the Classroom

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



Pat Bagley, Salt Lake Tribune Courtesy CagleCartoons.com



Photo by Jeff Widener (The Associated Press), June 5, 1989

## Interpreting the 'Tank Man' symbol

### Talking points

1. Pat Bagley's cartoon shows a Republican elephant blocking a column of "health care reform" emergency vehicles. The cartoon is a takeoff on Jeff Widener's iconic 1989 photograph of a lone Chinese man confronting a column of tanks in Beijing's Tiananmen Square. Outside of China, the image of the "Tank Man" has become a compelling symbol of individual heroism. Use the Internet to do some research about the image and the impact the incident has had on history.
2. Is the cartoonist saying that the defiant Republicans are heroes for stopping the reforms? Or is he contending that they are simply blocking progress? Explain your view.
3. Is there anything in the cartoon that might indicate what the cartoonist's opinion really is about the stonewalling?

### Additional resources

More by Cartoonist Pat Bagley

<http://cagle.com/politicalcartoons/PCcartoons/bagley.asp>

More by Photographer Jeff Widener

<http://www.jeffwidener.com/h/>

Association of American Editorial Cartoonists

<http://editorialcartoonists.com/>