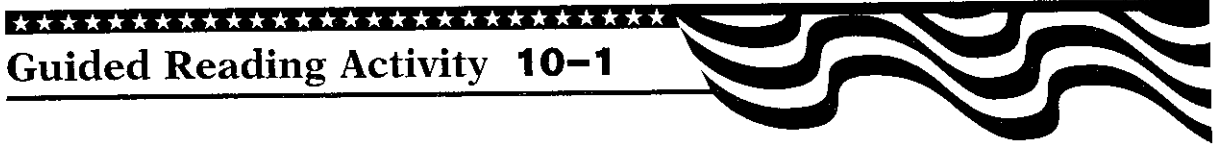


Linkage Institutions – Elections, Media, & Public Opinion

Guided Reading Activity 10-1



Who Can Vote?



Always find the main idea of the passage you are reading. Look for a specific idea and write it down. Do details in the passage support what you think is the main idea?

DIRECTIONS: Write an answer to each question below in the space provided.

1. **Explaining** Why is voting an important right of American citizens?

2. **Identifying** What is the National Voter Registration Act?

3. **Identifying** What requirements must you meet to qualify to vote?

4. **Contrasting** What is the difference between a polling place and a precinct?

5. **Summarizing** What is the role of challengers at the polls?

6. **Describing** What does it mean to vote a split ticket?

7. **Defining** What is an absentee ballot?

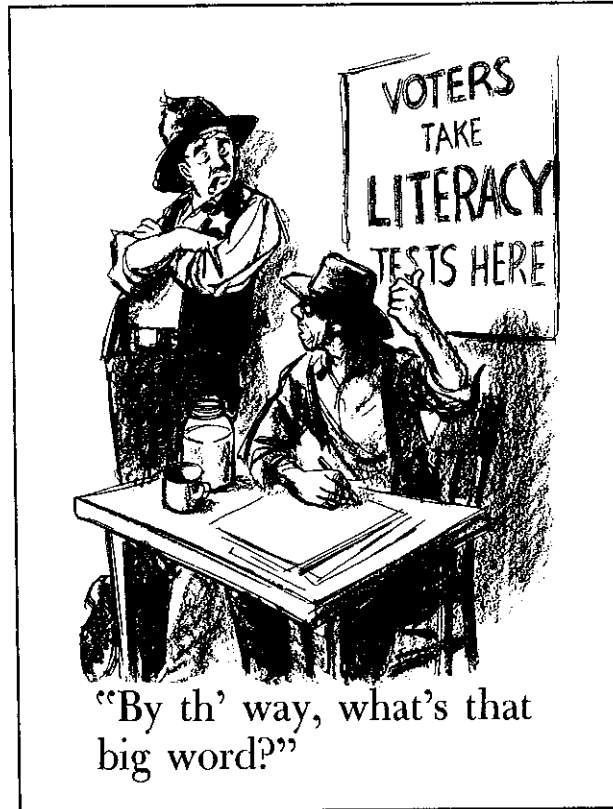
8. **Summarizing** What are two good reasons to exercise your right to vote?

CHAPTER

6

Section 2
Voter Qualifications

Voter qualifications, such as literacy tests, were used for many years to disqualify African Americans from voting. The ability to read or write as a requirement to vote was finally eliminated by federal civil rights laws and court actions. Study the cartoon below and answer the following questions.



Bill Mauldin/St. Louis Post Dispatch

Interpreting Political Cartoons

1. What are the two people in the cartoon doing?
2. What period of history does this cartoon portray?
3. What is the irony of the caption?
4. **Demonstrating Reasoned Judgment** Literary tests were outlawed because they were used to eliminate African American voters, by giving them more difficult tests than those given to white voters. Would you favor the use of basic literacy tests if they were administered fairly?

Section 3 Suffrage and Civil Rights

CHAPTER
6

Women first received the right to vote in this country in the territory of Wyoming in 1869. By the time the 19th Amendment was passed in 1920 granting suffrage to women throughout the country, women had come together as a political force. The cartoon below, which first appeared in *LIFE Magazine* in 1912, was the work of one of the few female cartoonists of the time. Study the cartoon below and answer the questions that follow.

Laura Foster/ Drawn & Quartered by Stephen Hess and Sandy Northrop



© Prentice-Hall, Inc.

Interpreting Political Cartoons

1. What was the purpose of this cartoon when it was first published in 1912?
2. What is the significance of showing women marching on a globe?
3. What is meant by figures falling off the globe?
4. **Drawing Conclusions** In the 1900s, there were female heads of state in Great Britain, India, and Israel, among other countries, but not in the United States. Do you think women in the United States have benefited as much from the right to vote as women in other countries?

Guided Reading Activity 10-2

Election Campaigns



Reading Tip

Before you begin a reading assignment, quickly skim the pages you are to read to get an idea of what you will be reading about.

DIRECTIONS: Write an answer to each question below in the space provided.

1. **Identifying** What are the three types of elections in the United States?

2. **Describing** What happens if neither candidate wins the majority of electoral votes in a presidential election? How often has this happened in history?

3. **Comparing** What is the difference between an initiative and a referendum?

4. **Listing** What are the three major steps in presidential elections?

5. **Summarizing** What are some ways that candidates campaign for election?

6. **Defining** What is the Electoral College?

7. **Inferring** When you vote for the U.S. president, for whom are you actually voting?

SECTION 10-2

Section 1
The Nominating Process**CHAPTER**
7

The process of seeking a party nomination for political office has become an expensive and time-consuming affair. When it comes to seeking the nomination for a State-wide or national office, the costs can be enormous. Study the cartoon below and answer the questions that follow.

©The New Yorker Collection 2000 Mike Twoky from cartoonbank.com. All Rights Reserved.



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Interpreting Political Cartoons

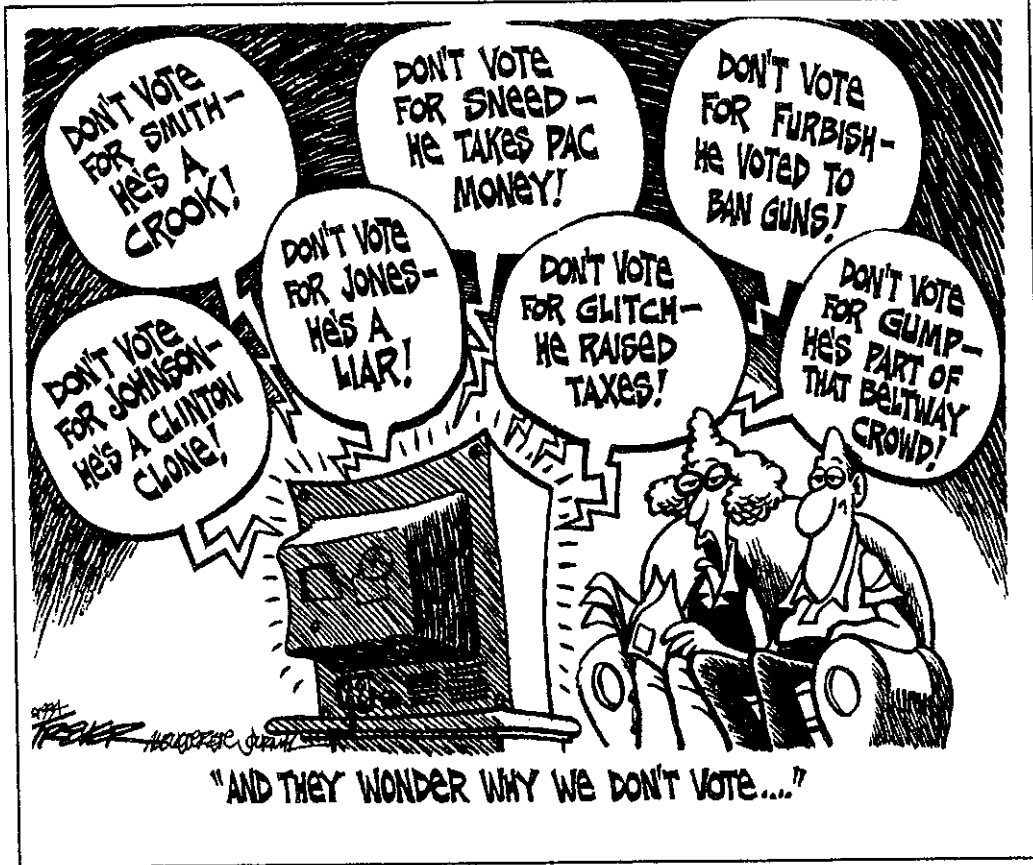
1. Who is the person in the cartoon meant to represent?
2. Why did the cartoonist portray the man in the cartoon in such an extreme way?
3. Why do you think the nominating process is so critical to our democratic process?
4. What is the opinion expressed by the cartoonist concerning the nominating process today?
5. **Recognizing Cause and Effect** Would you be in favor of limiting the amount of money that could be spent during political campaigns?

CHAPTER

6

Section 4
Voter Behavior

Why do so many Americans choose not to vote? Some observers have blamed the voters themselves for being too lazy or apathetic to take the trouble to vote. Other observers have blamed the media for focusing its political coverage on scandals and personalities rather than issues. Still other observers blame the candidates for encouraging voter apathy. Study the cartoon below and answer the questions that follow.




©1994 John Trever, Albuquerque Journal. Reprinted by permission.

Interpreting Political Cartoons

1. Who is making the statements shown coming out of the television set?
2. What charges do the statements make against rival candidates?
3. What does the statement by the woman watching television mean?
4. Why do you think the television ads had that effect on the woman?
5. **Demonstrating Reasoned Judgment** Would you favor a law that prevented candidates from running television ads criticizing other candidates? Explain your position.

Guided Reading Activity 10-3



Paying for Election Campaigns



Reading Tip

Locate the boldface key terms in this section before you read. Note their meanings before you read the passage.

DIRECTIONS: Write an answer to each question below in the space provided.

1. **Identifying** What is the purpose of campaigning for office?

2. **Describing** What are some of the techniques used during campaigning?

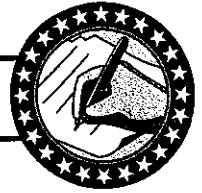
3. **Defining** What is propaganda?

4. **Describing** What is the purpose of election propaganda?

5. **Identifying** What are the private sources of campaign funding?

6. **Defining** What is soft money?

7. **Explaining** Who are incumbents?

Vocabulary Activity 10**Voting and Elections**

DIRECTIONS: Write the correct term from the box below to complete the sentence. Use another sheet of paper if necessary.

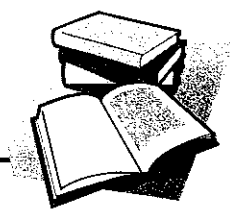
ballots**electorate****initiatives****political action committees****polling place****precinct****propaganda****recalls****referendums****returns****soft money**

Voting is an important right of American citizens. All people who are eligible to vote are called the **(1)** _____. Citizens who are registered to vote go to a **(2)** _____ to vote, which is in a **(3)** _____, or a voting district. Citizens then cast their **(4)** _____, which list candidates' names and their political parties. When the polls close, election workers count the votes. The workers then take the ballots and the results, known as the **(5)** _____, to the election board. The board sends these to the state canvassing authority, which then certifies the election of the winner.

In some state and local elections, voters not only decide on candidates, but they also decide on issues. Citizens can propose new laws or state constitutional amendments in **(6)** _____. Citizens can approve or reject a state or local law in **(7)** _____. They can also remove a public official from office in **(8)** _____.

Once candidates are nominated for office, they must campaign to convince the public to vote for them. Campaign organizations have workers who help acquaint the voters with their candidates' names and opinions on issues. Candidates use **(9)** _____ techniques to persuade voters to choose them over the other candidate. Campaigns are funded through public and private money. Donations given to political parties rather than to specific candidates are called **(10)** _____. Special-interest groups who support a specific candidate establish political organizations known as **(11)** _____. These groups donate money to candidates who favor their positions on certain issues.

Reteaching Activity 10 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★




Voting and Elections

One of the fundamental rights of American citizens is the right to vote. Without this right, citizens would not have a voice in who runs the government. A voter must be a United States citizen, a resident of the state for a specific period of time, and at least 18 years old. No citizen can be denied the right to vote based on race, color, or gender. To fulfill this civic duty, it is the voter's responsibility to analyze the candidates and issues. For a candidate to win an office, the person must campaign to convince the voter that he or she is the right person for the job.

DIRECTIONS: Matching Write the letter of the term next to the statement that best describes it.

A. public opinion polls	_____	1. This is a common type of voting machine.
B. punch card machine	_____	2. This organization is a political corporation designed to support candidates by contributing money.
C. challenger	_____	3. Taxpayers are the source of this money.
D. political action committee	_____	4. This is an example of an advertising or image-molding campaign technique.
E. winner-take-all system	_____	5. This is an example of a canvassing campaign technique.
F. Presidential Election Campaign Fund	_____	6. Each state is divided into these voting districts.
G. television commercial	_____	7. This individual must be convinced the voter is eligible to vote before the ballot is given to the voter.
H. precincts	_____	8. People who are eligible to vote are classified by this term.
I. electorate	_____	9. A candidate receives all of the state's electoral votes if he or she wins the popular vote of the state.
J. third-party candidate	_____	10. This candidate does not represent the Republican or Democratic political parties.

Guided Reading Activity 11-2



The Mass Media



After reading this section, write down each heading. Under each heading, write a sentence that summarizes that particular topic.

DIRECTIONS: Write an answer to each question below in the space provided.

1. **Defining** What does the print media include?

2. **Defining** What does the electronic media include?

3. **Identifying** What is the most popular form of mass media?

4. **Identifying** What is the public agenda?

5. **Explaining** Why would a government official leak information to the media?

6. **Concluding** What does it mean to say the mass media plays a "watchdog" role over government activities?

7. **Describing** How does the First Amendment protect the media?

8. **Summarizing** What does the FCC do?

SECTION 11-2

CHAPTER
8

Section 1

The Formation of Public Opinion

Public opinion is formed from an enormous amount of sources. Some of the more significant ones include the family, schools, opinion leaders, and the mass media. The mass media, because they are such powerful means of communication, tend to overshadow other influences. Children are especially vulnerable to the power of mass media. Study the cartoon below and answer the questions that follow.

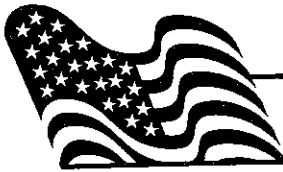


©Richard Crowson/Wichita Eagle. Reprinted with permission.

Interpreting Political Cartoons

1. What is the common theme of the storefronts and movie theatre shown?
2. Why is the parent's speech labeled the "hardest lesson to teach our kids"?
3. What is the implied relationship between violence and the media?
4. What is the cartoonist implying about the relationship between the "toughest lobby in Washington" and the other elements of the cartoon?
5. **Demonstrating Reasoned Judgment** Would you favor a law that allowed the government to censor the amount of violence portrayed in the media? Explain your position.

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Chapter Skills Activity 10

Distinguishing Fact From Opinion

❑ LEARNING THE SKILL

Facts can be proved by evidence such as records, documents, or historical sources. Opinions are based on people's differing values and beliefs. To help you identify facts and opinions, read or listen to the information carefully. Identify the facts. If a statement can be proved, it is factual. Check the sources for the facts. Identify opinions by looking for statements of feelings or beliefs.

❑ PRACTICING THE SKILL

DIRECTIONS: Read the excerpt about the Electoral College. Then answer the questions below on a separate sheet of paper.

1. List the facts stated in the passage.
2. List the opinions from the passage.
3. What is the purpose of this passage?

❑ APPLYING THE SKILL

DIRECTIONS: Read an editorial in your local newspaper; then answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

1. List the facts stated in the editorial.
2. List the opinions from the editorial.
3. What is the purpose of the editorial?

Electoral College Outlives Usefulness—By John B. Anderson, *USA Today*, November 2, 2000

George W. Bush and Al Gore have been criticizing each other for “fuzzy math.” But how's this for fuzzy math: There is a real chance that the presidential candidate who wins the most votes this year will not win the election.

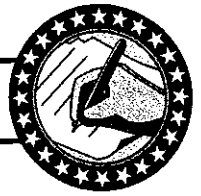
That's right—that old whipping horse, the Electoral College, once again may be the subject of well-deserved scorn. The candidate with the most votes is elected in every other election for federal office and in nearly all elections of any consequence here and abroad. But instead of a simple national vote, the Constitution requires the presidency to be decided by 51 separate elections in each state and the District of Columbia—all but Nebraska and Maine winner-take-all—with electoral votes allocated based on the size of each state's congressional delegation.

The last popular-vote winner defeated by the college was Grover Cleveland in 1888. Since then, we have amended the Constitution to elect senators directly, to guarantee women's right to vote and to lower the voting age to 18. We have passed the Voting Rights Act to provide access to the ballot regardless of race or ethnicity. The Electoral College has escaped this move to greater democracy only because of institutional inertia.

Rejection of the indirect election of a president is overdue. Many Americans favor its abolition. If the winner of this year's popular vote is defeated due to the vagaries of narrow results in a handful of states, legislators will rush to file constitutional amendments to abolish the Electoral College. I suspect one will succeed.

Source: www.fairvote.org/op_ed/electoral_college.htm#usatoday

Vocabulary Activity 11



Influencing Government

DIRECTIONS: Write the term that matches each definition in the space provided. Use a separate sheet of paper if necessary.

political action committee
pollster
electronic media
print media
interest group

prior restraint
libel
public agenda
leak

public opinion
lobbyist
public opinion poll
public policy

1. _____ form of media that includes newspapers, newsletters, magazines, and books
2. _____ course of action taken by the government in response to an issue or problem
3. _____ individual who measures public opinion by designing and conducting surveys
4. _____ formed by interest groups to collect money from their members to support candidates and issues that coincide with their goals
5. _____ publishing false information that harms someone's reputation
6. _____ problems and issues that receive the most time, money, and effort from the government
7. _____ information that "slips out" accidentally or intentionally, which can be used to test or change public opinion
8. _____ people who share similar views about an issue and unite to promote their beliefs
9. _____ a survey that measures the opinions of the public about candidates or issues
10. _____ form of media that includes radio, television, and the Internet
11. _____ attitudes held by most people about officials, candidates, government, and political issues
12. _____ government censorship of material before it is published
13. _____ a representative of an interest group who contacts lawmakers