

the ARTICLE (for instructors)

McCain Picks Veep

There was a lot of suspense around McCain's Veep pick. Who would the Republican candidate choose to be his running mate? Although many have called him "a maverick," would he pick a traditional conservative to satisfy his party? No one could have guessed that he would choose the completely unknown governor of Alaska, Sarah Palin.

Republican supporters have already begun to spin the news. They call her a Washington outsider because so many want to distance McCain from the failed policies of the unpopular President Bush. Palin isn't obligated to follow politics as usual in the capital. She's young, too. In other words, she will bring fresh ideas to national politics. On the other hand, Democratic rivals have painted her as someone very unready to be the Vice President. She would be only one step away from assuming the duties and responsibilities of the Presidency. What if McCain died in office? This is a very real concern for some Americans. After all, the job is very stressful and he just turned 72.

Of course, Democrats will focus on the negatives and Republicans will focus on the positives. Neutral historians and scholars, however, have called Palin the most unqualified Vice Presidential choice of modern times. She completely lacks experience in national security and foreign affairs. After all, she has only been governor of Alaska for two years. Before that, she was mayor of a town with slightly more than 5,000 people.

It's a big gamble. Palin could energize McCain's campaign. She could draw women supporters and independents who have yet to decide on a candidate. Or people could scoff at his choice and turn away. But it also sends a very clear message: McCain isn't worried about his age, and has no intention of passing away during his Presidency. Palin's lack of experience and her youth simply don't matter.

Teacher's Notes:

* Underlined words in red typeface are the recommended vocabulary for this lesson.

WARM-UPS

Select one or all of the following warm-up activities.

1. **Define:** What does "president" mean? Can you use it in a sentence? Can you give examples?

2. **Brainstorm:** Brainstorm with a partner(s) words and ideas associated with "president" for 2 minutes. Spend another 5 minutes or less discussing the words and ideas together.

3. **Speculate:** Write in the missing word for today's article title: "McCain () ()." Why did you choose these words for the blanks?

4. **Do you agree or disagree? Why?**

a.	I'm very interested in the US election.
b.	The US election this year will be the biggest news of the year worldwide.
c.	The US President is one of the most influential and important people in the world.
d.	John McCain is too old to become President.
e.	Barak Obama is too young and inexperienced to become President.

5. **Rank It!:** What age is ideal for a politician in national government? Rank the choices in order, from best to worst.

Remember to support your answers!

a.	35 or younger
b.	36 - 45
c.	46 - 55
d.	56 - 65
e.	66 or older

VOCABULARY

Select one of the following vocabulary acquisition activities.

1. Vocabulary match: Individually or in pairs/groups, match the words in column A (from the article) with the best choice in column B.

a.	suspense	q.	require
b.	obligate	r.	plan
c.	rival	s.	take on
d.	assume	t.	tension
e.	neutral	u.	not suitable
f.	unqualified	v.	laugh at
g.	lack	w.	open minded
h.	draw	x.	opponent
i.	scoff	y.	attract
j.	intention	z.	be without

2. Fill in the Blanks: Fill in the blank with the correct word.

	rivals	unqualified	neutral	intention	obligated
	scoff	suspense	assuming	lacks	draw
a.	There was a lot of () around McCain's Veep pick.				
b.	Palin isn't () to follow politics as usual in the capital.				
c.	Democratic () have painted her as someone very unready to be the Vice President.				
d.	She would be only one step away from () the duties and responsibilities of the Presidency.				
e.	() historians and scholars don't have positive views.				
f.	They have called Palin the most () Vice Presidential choice of modern times.				
g.	She completely () experience in national security and foreign affairs.				
h.	She could () women supporters and independents who have yet to decide on a candidate.				
i.	People could () at his choice and turn away.				
j.	McCain isn't worried about his age, and has no () of passing away during his Presidency.				

3. Define: Define each word, correctly pronounce it, explain the meaning and/or usage, and offer an example sentence to the class.

a.	suspense	c.	rival	e.	neutral	g.	lack	i.	scoff
b.	obligate	d.	assume	f.	unqualified	h.	draw	j.	intention

WORD RECOGNITION

1. **Word Search:** Find the target words (in bold). Time yourself, and see how many words you can find in three minutes. In five minutes. In ten minutes.

rivals	unqualified	neutral	intention	obligated
scoff	suspense	assuming	lacks	draw
S E I K V P V O L L H O T X T P C F N O U O I A I O B E N B N V O H T T F R C F Z L T L Y L O X F V E T Q K E D I A P I S N T Z F U N S S E F G G D I T N R N E S U T I A Z A I W P D L Z N E S U F I A M T L G G W A R D P T I H C O R E B J H D W I E O L N B J I N D O L U B O N M A C R I V A L S B U H M S O U S Q K A J U Z U Z S A E I Q U K Z L T U V O R M Q T M N A M U N Q U A L I F E D I U G N I M U S S A P L B E V R Y E E A E C M Q C V H B W S F				

2. **Target Word Pool:** Find the target words (in bold) with their exact match. Time yourself, and see how many words you can find in three minutes. In five minutes. In ten minutes.

rivals	unqualified	neutral	intention	obligated
scoff	suspense	assuming	lacks	draw
draws	rivald	lacked	quality	qualified
	unassuming	scoffing	neutrally	rival
	neutral	obliged	assistance	suspenseful
qualifying	oblige	suspenders	luckily	intend
intent	scoffed	intention	assumption	newness
neuter	obligated	rivals	draw	suspended
luck	suspense	obligation	unqualified	skiff
	revel	assuming	intentionally	assumed
suspend	unequaled	intended	neutrality	lacks
	sconce	drawing	rivaling	drew
			obligating	

pre- or post-COMPREHENSION

1. Word Association: Brainstorm words associated with today's topic for two minutes. Present to the class.

2. Brainstorm Questions: Brainstorm questions that you would like to ask about today's topic. Answer the questions without looking at the article.

3. True or False?: Guess (before the article) or answer (after the article) whether the sentence is true or false. If false, correct the sentence.

a.	No one knew McCain would pick Sarah Palin as his running mate.	T / F
b.	Democrats think she will bring new ideas to Washington.	T / F
c.	Democrats think she doesn't have the experience to become President.	T / F
d.	Neutral historians think she is one of the least qualified running mates ever.	T / F
e.	According to the article, McCain likely feels young enough to become the US President.	T / F

4. Questions: Answer the questions to check comprehension.

a.	According to the article, what have the Republicans begun to do?
b.	What do Republicans say about Sarah Palin?
c.	What do Democrats say about Sarah Palin?
d.	What do historians say about her?
e.	According to the article, what message does McCain send with his Veep pick?

5. Vocabulary: In pairs/groups, remember how the words were used in today's article.

a.	suspense	c.	rivals	e.	neutral	g.	lacks	i.	scoff
b.	obligated	d.	assuming	f.	unqualified	h.	draw	j.	intention

6. Fragments: Remember how the fragments were used, and complete the sentence from today's article.

a.	Although many have called him "a maverick"...
b.	On the other hand, Democratic rivals have...
c.	She would be only one step away from...
d.	Neutral historians and scholars, however, have called Palin...
e.	Palin's lack of...

post-COMPREHENSION

- 1. Vocabulary:** Circle any additional unknown words/phrases in the article. In pairs/groups, use your dictionaries to understand the meanings. Present to the class.
- 2. Class Questions:** Read through the article once more, and write down any questions that you would like to discuss in pairs/groups or as a class. Discuss.
- 3. Summarize:** Work with a partner to summarize the article in your own words.
- 4. Discuss:** Talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Remember to support your answers!

a.	Did you like this article?
b.	What was your general impression after reading this article?
c.	How important is the age of a leader? Should it be a major issue? Please explain.
d.	How important is the experience of a leader? Should it be a major issue? Please explain.
e.	Is it a good thing that McCain chose a woman to be his Vice President? Why/not?
f.	Why do you think that McCain may have chosen Sarah Palin? Please explain.
g.	Is it a good thing that Barak Obama is the first black candidate with a real chance to become the US President?
h.	Who do you prefer in the US election, John McCain or Barak Obama? Why?
i.	Who do you think will win the US election in November? Please explain.
j.	What do you think of age discrimination? Please support your opinion with examples, if possible.

- 5. Presentation:** Select one of the questions from above and prepare a formal presentation with your partner. Choose either to inform or persuade in your presentation. Use the following outline to organize your presentation, making notes on your notebook. Lastly, speak to another pair of students.

Introduction: State the key idea of your presentation.
Outline: Briefly mention the steps you plan to present.
Main Body: Break this into statements with supporting evidence for each one.
Conclusion: Summarize the key points once more.

- 6. Google Search:** Type "Sarah Palin" into Google news and read additional articles on this topic. Discuss or write an essay about your findings.

STUDENT HANDOUT (the article)

McCain Picks Veep

There was a lot of suspense around McCain's Veep pick. Who would the Republican candidate choose to be his running mate? Although many have called him "a maverick," would he pick a traditional conservative to satisfy his party? No one could have guessed that he would choose the completely unknown governor of Alaska, Sarah Palin.

Republican supporters have already begun to spin the news. They call her a Washington outsider because so many want to distance McCain from the failed policies of the unpopular President Bush. Palin isn't obligated to follow politics as usual in the capital. She's young, too. In other words, she will bring fresh ideas to national politics. On the other hand, Democratic rivals have painted her as someone very unready to be the Vice President. She would be only one step away from assuming the duties and responsibilities of the Presidency. What if McCain died in office? This is a very real concern for some Americans. After all, the job is very stressful and he just turned 72.

Of course, Democrats will focus on the negatives and Republicans will focus on the positives. Neutral historians and scholars, however, have called Palin the most unqualified Vice Presidential choice of modern times. She completely lacks experience in national security and foreign affairs. After all, she has only been governor of Alaska for two years. Before that, she was mayor of a town with slightly more than 5,000 people.

It's a big gamble. Palin could energize McCain's campaign. She could draw women supporters and independents who have yet to decide on a candidate. Or people could scoff at his choice and turn away. But it also sends a very clear message: McCain isn't worried about his age, and has no intention of passing away during his Presidency. Palin's lack of experience and her youth simply don't matter.

Notes:

STUDENT HANDOUT (fill in the blank)

Fill in the blank with the correct word.

security	intention	neutral	completely	obligated
lacks	suspense	scoff	unqualified	stressful
rivals	spin	assuming	matter	draw

McCain Picks Veep

There was a lot of (a. _____) around McCain's Veep pick. Who would the Republican candidate choose to be his running mate? Although many have called him "a maverick," would he pick a traditional conservative to satisfy his party? No one could have guessed that he would choose the (b. _____) unknown governor of Alaska, Sarah Palin.

Republican supporters have already begun to (c. _____) the news. They call her a Washington outsider because so many want to distance McCain from the failed policies of the unpopular President Bush. Palin isn't (d. _____) to follow politics as usual in the capital. She's young, too. In other words, she will bring fresh ideas to national politics. On the other hand, Democratic (e. _____) have painted her as someone very unready to be the Vice President. She would be only one step away from (f. _____) the duties and responsibilities of the Presidency. What if McCain died in office? This is a very real concern for some Americans. After all, the job is very (g. _____) and he just turned 72.

Of course, Democrats will focus on the negatives and Republicans will focus on the positives. (h. _____) historians and scholars, however, have called Palin the most (i. _____) Vice Presidential choice of modern times. She completely (j. _____) experience in national (k. _____) and foreign affairs. After all, she has only been governor of Alaska for two years. Before that, she was mayor of a town with slightly more than 5,000 people.

It's a big gamble. Palin could energize McCain's campaign. She could (l. _____) women supporters and independents who have yet to decide on a candidate. Or people could (m. _____) at his choice and turn away. But it also sends a very clear message: McCain isn't worried about his age, and has no (n. _____) of passing away during his Presidency. Palin's lack of experience and her youth simply don't (o. _____).

STUDENT HANDOUT (extended listening)

Listen and fill in the missing sentences. Compare answers with a partner, and then listen once more.

McCain Picks Veep

There was a lot of suspense around McCain's Veep pick. Who would the Republican candidate choose to be his running mate? Although many have called him "a maverick," would he pick a traditional conservative to satisfy his party?

a) _____.

Republican supporters have already begun to spin the news. b) _____
_____. Palin isn't obligated to follow politics as usual in the capital. She's young, too. In other words, she will bring fresh ideas to national politics. On the other hand, Democratic rivals have painted her as someone very unready to be the Vice President. She would be only one step away from assuming the duties and responsibilities of the Presidency. What if McCain died in office? This is a very real concern for some Americans. After all, the job is very stressful and he just turned 72.

Of course, c) _____. Neutral historians and scholars, however, have called Palin the most unqualified Vice Presidential choice of modern times. She completely lacks experience in national security and foreign affairs. After all, she has only been governor of Alaska for two years. Before that, she was mayor of a town with slightly more than 5,000 people.

It's a big gamble. Palin could energize McCain's campaign. d) _____
_____. Or people could scoff at his choice and turn away. But it also sends a very clear message:

e) _____. Palin's lack of experience and her youth simply don't matter.

STUDENT HANDOUT (activities)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary

1. Vocabulary Match:

a.	t	f.	u
b.	q	g.	z
c.	x	h.	y
d.	s	i.	v
e.	w	j.	r

2. Fill in the Blanks:

a.	suspense	f.	unqualified
b.	obligated	g.	lacks
c.	rivals	h.	draw
d.	assuming	i.	scoff
e.	Neutral	j.	intention

pre- or post-Comprehension

1. True or False:

a.	T
b.	F
c.	F
d.	F
e.	T

2. Fragments:

a.	would he pick a traditional conservative to satisfy his party?
b.	portrayed her as someone very unready to be the Vice President.
c.	assuming the duties and responsibilities of the Presidency.
d.	the most unqualified Vice Presidential choice of modern times.
e.	experience and her youth simply don't matter.

Student Handout

1. Fill in the Blanks

a.	suspense	i.	unqualified
b.	completely	j.	lacks
c.	spin	k.	security
d.	obligated	l.	draw
e.	rivals	m.	scoff
f.	assuming	n.	intention
g.	stressful	o.	matter
h.	Neutral		

2. Extended Listening

a.	No one could have guessed that he would choose the completely unknown governor of Alaska, Sarah Palin
b.	They call her a Washington outsider because so many want to distance McCain from the failed policies of the unpopular President Bush
c.	Democrats will focus on the negatives and Republicans will focus on the positives
d.	She could draw women supporters and independents who have yet to decide on a candidate
e.	McCain isn't worried about his age, and has no intention of passing away during his Presidency