

## the ARTICLE (for instructors)

### McCain Picks Veep

The suspense around McCain's Veep pick had been building all week, even as people watched the Democratic National Convention. Who would the Republican candidate, a person many have called "a maverick," choose to be his running mate? No one could have guessed the almost completely unknown governor of Alaska, Sarah Palin.

Stalwart Republicans have already begun to spin the news. They call her a Washington outsider in an effort to place distance between McCain and the failed policies of the unpopular President Bush. She isn't beholden to the status quo of politics in the capital. She's young, too. In other words, she will bring fresh ideas to the national scene. On the other hand, the Democratic pundits have painted her as someone woefully unqualified to be just one step away from the Presidency. What if McCain died in office? This is a very real concern for some Americans, given the accompanying stresses of the job and his age. After all, he just turned 72.

Of course, Democrats will focus on the negatives and Republicans on the positives. Impartial historians and scholars, however, have disparagingly 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, a state with few people, for two years. Before that, she was mayor of a town with slightly more than 5,000 people.

It's all a big gamble. Palin could invigorate McCain's campaign, drawing women supporters and independents who have yet to decide on a candidate. Or people could scoff at his choice and turn away in droves. 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 answers.

**the ARTICLE (for students)**

**McCain Picks Veep**

The suspense around McCain's Veep pick had been building all week, even as people watched the Democratic National Convention. Who would the Republican candidate, a person many have called "a maverick," choose to be his running mate? a) \_\_\_\_\_.

The Republican stalwarts have already begun to spin the news. They call her a Washington outsider in an effort to place distance between McCain and the failed policies of the unpopular President Bush. b) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. She's young, too. In other words, she will bring fresh ideas to the national scene. On the other hand, the Democratic pundits have painted her as someone woefully unqualified to be just one step away from the Presidency. What if McCain died in office? This is a very real concern for some Americans, given the accompanying stresses of the job and his age. After all, he just turned 72.

Of course, Democrats will focus on the negatives and Republicans on the positives. Impartial historians and scholars, however, c) \_\_\_\_\_. She completely lacks experience in national security and foreign affairs. After all, she has only been governor of Alaska, a state with few people, for two years. Before that, she was mayor of a town with slightly more than 5,000 people.

It's all a big gamble. Palin could invigorate McCain's campaign, drawing women supporters and independents who have yet to decide on a candidate. d) \_\_\_\_\_. But it also sends a very clear message: e) \_\_\_\_\_. Palin's lack of experience and her youth simply don't matter.

Notes:

## STEP ONE

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

## STEP TWO

**Questions:** Read as much of the article as you can in two minutes. Guess the answers to the questions below, then listen to your teacher read the article. Try to confirm your answers.

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

## STEP THREE

**Fill in the Blanks:** Listen to your teacher read the article again. Fill in the blanks with the missing words.

## STEP FOUR

**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?

## STEP FIVE

**Discuss:** Talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Remember to support your answers!

a.	What was your general impression after reading this article?
b.	How important is the age of a leader? Should it be a major issue? Please explain.
c.	How important is the experience of a leader? Should it be a major issue? Please explain.
d.	Why do you think that McCain may have chosen Sarah Palin? Please explain.