

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 answers.

the ARTICLE (for students)

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.

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.