

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 scuff 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 may be vocabulary unfamiliar to the students.

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Notes:

STEP ONE

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.

STEP TWO

Discuss: 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.

STEP THREE

The Article: Read the article, and work with a partner to understand it. Lastly, summarize in your own words.

STEP FOUR

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

a.	Did you like this article?
b.	Is it a good thing that McCain chose a woman to be his Vice President? Why/not?
c.	Why do you think that McCain may have chosen Sarah Palin? Please explain.
d.	Is it a good thing that Barak Obama is the first black candidate with a real chance to become the US President?
e.	Who do you think will win the US election in November? Please explain.
f.	What do you think of age discrimination? Please support your opinion with examples, if possible.

STEP FIVE

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.