

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)

woefully	invigorate	slightly	stalwarts	droves
completely	suspense	supporters	impartial	disparagingly
scoff	candidate	beholden	accompanying	pundits

McCain Picks Veep

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

The Republican (d. _____) 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 (e. _____) 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 (f. _____) have painted her as someone (g. _____) 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 (h. _____) 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. (i. _____) historians and scholars, however, have (j. _____) 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 (k. _____) more than 5,000 people.

It's all a big gamble. Palin could (l. _____) McCain's campaign, drawing women (m. _____) and independents who have yet to decide on a candidate. Or people could (n. _____) at his choice and turn away in (o. _____). 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.

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

Vocabulary match: Match the words in column A (from the article) with the best choice in column B. Use a dictionary for any words you don't know, but be sure to check your English-English dictionary, too.

a.	suspense	q.	obligated
b.	stalwart	r.	energize
c.	beholden	s.	tension
d.	pundit	t.	belittle
e.	woeful	u.	neutral
f.	impartial	v.	crowd
g.	disparage	w.	loyal
h.	invigorate	x.	laugh at
i.	scoff	y.	expert
j.	drove	z.	awful

STEP THREE

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

	woefully	suspense	disparagingly	impartial	stalwarts
	beholden	scoff	pundits	droves	invigorate
a.	The () around McCain's Veep pick had been building all week.				
b.	() Republicans have already begun to spin the news.				
c.	Sarah Palin isn't () to the status quo of politics in the capital.				
d.	The Democratic () have painted her differently.				
e.	They think that she is () unqualified to be just one step away from the Presidency.				
f.	() historians and scholars don't have positive views.				
g.	They have () called Palin the most unqualified Vice Presidential choice of modern times.				
h.	Palin could () McCain's campaign, drawing women supporters.				
i.	People could () at his choice.				
j.	They could turn away in ().				

STEP FOUR

The Article: 1) Read the article, but don't worry about the missing words. 2) Fill in the blanks with today's vocabulary, followed by all the other words. 3) Read the article again, and circle any unknown words/phrases. In pairs/groups, use your dictionaries to understand the words or phrases your circled. 4) Answer the questions to check your 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: Write down five vocabulary words from today's article that you want to use.

a.	
b.	
c.	
d.	
e.	

Now talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Every time you use a vocabulary word, place a check next to it.

a.	Did you like this article?
b.	Why do you think that McCain may have chosen Sarah Palin? Please explain.
c.	Who do you prefer in the US election, John McCain or Barak Obama? Why?
d.	Who do you think will win the US election in November? Please explain.

Score yourself:

10 or more times: Fantastic! Be sure to review the words at home.

6-9 times: Pretty good! You're on your way to acquiring today's vocabulary. Try writing your own sentences at home.

5 or less times: Try harder next time! To acquire new vocabulary, you need to use the new words as much as possible.