

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)

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. _____).

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.	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

STEP THREE

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.				

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 Barack 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.