

Write On Wednesday with The Seattle Times

August 3, 2016

Learning Objectives

- Students will use newspaper articles to analyze individuals (and their corresponding platforms) participating in current elections.
- Students will, using specific words and phrases, convey information about the current election cycle.

CCSS Standards

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7.3

Analyze the interactions between individuals, events, and ideas in a text (e.g., how ideas influence individuals or events, or how individuals influence ideas or events).

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.3.D

Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events.

Materials

- **Large sheet of paper**
- **August, 3rd 2016** e-Edition of The Seattle Times, as well as access to the past two weeks of archived e-editions
- **Computers (and/or pencil and paper)**
- **Dictionary**

Warm Up:

Take a few minutes to respond to the following prompt on your own: What qualities does a good political leader possess?

As a class or a small group, take turns filling the large sheet of paper that your teacher provided you with words and phrases that relate to being a good political leader.

Reading:

Read three election related articles of your choice on pages A1 and A6-A8 in the Main section of the Wednesday, August 3rd e-edition of The Seattle Times. Pick a person from one of the articles who is currently running for office or involved in politics in Washington state and answer the following questions. You might want to conduct external research using previous issues of The Seattle Times, the internet or other reliable sources.

- Who is he/she?

- What office is he/she running for?

- What is his/her political party?

- What is his/her platform – or stance on major issues? Are there any particular factors that influence this?

- What is his/her experience in politics (or other areas)? How does his/her experience affect his/her platform?

Write On: Political Found Poem

- 1) Using the two week archives of The Seattle Times, find **at least** two articles about a politician or political candidate of your choice (you may choose the same person from your reading exercise or one of the current presidential candidates).
- 2) Read over the articles and highlight any words or phrases that seem powerful or important. Pay close attention to see if you can find words or phrases that provide details or sensory descriptions.
- 3) Using your found words and phrases create a found poem to convey something about the politician (this might relate to describing a particular event or experience involving the politician) or perhaps even just this year's election in general. Note: You might have to add in a few extra words for your poem to make sense, but challenge yourself to stick mostly to the words you found in the articles.
- 4) Reflect, how does this poem (and the words you chose) relate to the qualities that you listed in your warm up exercise?