

Civic Minds

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Article Title: **It's tricky for young reporters to cover this R-rated election**

Section: Main, A3

Learning Objectives

- ✓ Students will examine why this election is unusual and some of the controversy surrounding it.

CCSS Standards

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.11-12.1.b

Work with peers to promote civil, democratic discussions and decision-making, set clear goals and deadlines, and establish individual roles as needed.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.11-12.1.d

Respond thoughtfully to diverse perspectives; synthesize comments, claims, and evidence made on all sides of an issue; resolve contradictions when possible; and determine what additional information or research is required to deepen the investigation or complete the task.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.7

Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, as well as in words) in order to address a question or solve a problem.

Social Studies EALR 1: CIVICS The student understands and applies knowledge of government, law, politics, and the nation's fundamental documents to make decisions about local, national, and international issues and to demonstrate thoughtful, participatory citizenship.

Vocabulary

Look up the definition of **accosted**. Please write the definition and create a new sentence, using your own words.

A few weeks ago, Erik Weibel was at a Bernie Sanders rally for Hillary Clinton in Pennsylvania, when he was **accosted** by a group of young supporters of Donald Trump.

Comprehension Questions

1. A few weeks ago, Erik Weibel was at a Bernie Sanders rally for Hillary Clinton in Pennsylvania, when he was accosted by a group of young supporters of Donald Trump. The boys surrounded him, jeering and chanting "Trump! Trump! Trump!"

"They were being really obnoxious, getting right up in my face and shouting things, and I didn't know how to react," he said. "My mom stepped in and helped." Why do you think some Trump rallies seem to incite violence and anger among his supporters?
2. How many children did Scholastic dispatch to cover the campaign trail? How old are they?
3. Covering the primary campaigns and general election in Pennsylvania, what has Erik witnessed?
4. Scholastic has been providing child-friendly election coverage to teachers and classrooms for nearly a century, starting with what presidential race? What year?
5. It introduced its children's news-corps program in 2000, and for the past five presidential elections, Scholastic has done what?
6. This year's news corps includes children in 22 states and the District of Columbia. What do the children cover? How many students will this program reach?

7. What uplifting and inspiring moments have the reporters had?

Class Discussion Questions and Essay Prompts

- Does your classroom use the Scholastic News-Corps program? If not, have you ever used it? Did you enjoy hearing about the election, from a kid's perspective? Why or why not?
- What makes this such an unusual election?
- Have you talked with your family about the election and the candidates?
- Were you able to watch the debates? What did you think?

Many of the young reporters say it is exhilarating to witness history unfolding before their eyes. But this election has presented challenges, as the race has devolved into one of the most vicious contests in the nation's history.

Even the most grizzled, jaded campaign veterans have been shocked by the barrage of insults and controversies that have defined this year's race.

"This election does stand out just for the level of nastiness all around," said Elliott Rebhun, the editor-in-chief of Scholastic Classroom Magazines. "It's been really tricky."

For the Scholastic news corps, covering the presidential campaign has, at times, been an eye-opening initiation into the uglier side of politics.

- What things contribute to the "Uglier side of politics?"

Occasionally, though, she has been disheartened by the mistrust of the news media. At a recent Trump rally in Portsmouth, N.H., Kaitlin was excited to join the professional new corps in the media area, and eagerly asked the other reporters about their jobs.

"One of them said, 'Prepare to be booed,' " Kaitlin said. "You could feel that the crowd didn't really want us there."

- Do you trust news media? Do you trust news reports on TV? Do you think the truth is always told? Could some of the news networks have their own bias? Why or why not? Do you have an example to share?

Essay

Why has this been one of the most contentious, polarizing and occasionally perilous elections in American history?

Give specific examples of what you've read in articles, seen on TV or other media sources.

Newspaper-related CBA activity: U.S. Policy

How the United States government interacts with the world affects people across the globe. Analyze and evaluate the causes and effects of US foreign policy on people in the United States and across the world.

- Using The Seattle Times print replica, find an article from this week that deals with world politics or foreign policy.
- What are the main points of view from someone living in that particular country? How is that “view” similar and different than your own opinion, regarding the specific issue the article is discussing?
- Why is it important to study and learn about foreign policy? How does it help you understand the world we live in, using current issues and events?

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