Teaching News Is Elementary
April 21, 2017

Each week, this lesson will share some classroom activity ideas that use the newspaper or other NIE resources. You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some classrooms may be able to use this as a worksheet and others might need to ask and answer the questions in a class discussion.

Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for all of your students.

Materials you will need for this lesson: The Seattle Times print replica, computer or smart board, pencils or pens, paper

Article: Fashion makes political statement in France
Section: Main, A4
Print Replica Date: Monday, April 17, 2017

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1
Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

Objectives:
Students will read an article, and search for personal connections they see in their own lives.

Pre- Reading Discussion:

- Does the clothing a person wear show who they are? Why or why not?
- Striking the right visual tone is especially crucial in France, and Twitter, Instagram and other social media make a good presidential image more important than ever. Do you agree or disagree with the statement above?
- How does clothing change the way others see you?
- Do you think clothing "brands" you? Why or why not? What is your own brand?
- Do you ever judge a book by its cover? Take a look at France's Presidential candidates. What are the differences in their clothing styles? Who would you vote for, based on how they are dressed? Why did you pick that candidate?

Vocabulary Building:

Read this sentence, what do you think the highlighted words mean using *context clues*? A *context clue* is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the identities and meanings of unknown words.

Write your guess and then look up the definition and write it below your guess. How close did you come to the correct definition?

1. Whether political calculation or lucky coincidence, the move nicely contrasts with scandal-hit conservative candidate Francois Fillon, accused of elitism for **exorbitantly** priced suits paid for by donors, including paying $13,800 for two recent suits.

Exorbitant **Guess:**

Exorbitant **Definition:**

Reading Comprehension:

1. Do voters judge a book by its cover? France's presidential candidates certainly think they do, and more than ever are trying to get their political message across through what?
2. What are the two main topics surrounding France's election?
3. Centrist candidate Emmanuel Macron wears suits that cost about $370 from a small Parisian retailer. Whether political calculation or lucky coincidence, the move nicely contrasts with scandal-hit conservative candidate Francois Fillon, accused of elitism for exorbitantly priced suits paid for by donors, including paying $_____ for two recent suits.
4. And car-factory worker Philippe Poutou, a far-left candidate who took just five weeks off work to run for president, stole the show at the last presidential debate. What was he dressed like?
5. Striking the right visual tone is especially crucial in France. Why?
6. Why did Fillon, 63, take a major blow in the polls?

Classroom Discussions or Journal Writing Prompts:

"Fillon's problems can be all summed up by his suits. He built a campaign around honesty and keeping scandals out of politics ... he became exactly the image of the thing he was fighting," said political-image consultant Frank Tapiro.

Style consultant Emery Dolige agreed, calling the impact of Fillon's extravagant suits "catastrophic in the countryside and poorer areas."

- Why would fancy and expensive suits be catastrophic to voters in the countryside or poorer areas?

Le Pen has dramatically softened her party's image since taking over from her hard-line father in 2011. But for this race, in which her major competitors are men, she has cut her blond hair and donned dark menswear-style suits.

That contrasts sharply with the only other woman to be a top presidential contender in France, Segolene Royal, who wore bright feminine colors in her 2007 campaign.

Le Pen "has a conservative, masculine style to align with the attributes of authority and firmness," said image consultant Valeria Doustaly.

Le Pen favors navy blue, which is called "bleu marine" in French — the name of her political movement, a wordplay on her first name and the color long associated with conservatives in France.

- Why do you think La Pen cut her hair short and wears men's-style suits?
- Do you think this will help her win? Why or why not?