

# THE WEEK



The Week  
at a  
Glance



4	Trump ramps up threats against political 'enemies'	News	With three weeks to go until Election Day, Donald Trump took a turn toward overt authoritarianism this week, escalating his anti-immigrant rhetoric, branding his political opponents as "evil," and saying federal troops should be deployed against them.	Politics
6	Harris: Can she win back wavering Black, Latino voters?	News	Black Americans have historically been "unflinching supporters" of the Democratic Party, said Maya King in <i>The New York Times</i> . Yet there is "growing alarm" that lukewarm Black enthusiasm for Vice President Kamala Harris could cost her next month's election.	Politics Government American History Civics
7	Atlanta: Certifiable	News	A Georgia judge halted a new rule requiring hand counting of ballots on Election Day, saying such a change in election rules so close to the vote was "too much, too late."	Government Civics
9	Jerusalem: U.S. deepens involvement:	News	The U.S. agreed to give Israel a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense battery, one of America's most advanced anti-missile systems. Washington is also sending 100 troops to Israel to operate it, marking a significant increase in U.S. involvement as the war in the Middle East escalates.	World Studies
12	America's swing-state obsession	Opinion	America is trapped in "swing-state mania," said David Faris, and it's all because of the Electoral College—"the single most ridiculous institution in the democratic world."	Government Politics American History

**BRIEFLY:** Quick Questions & Ideas To Engage Students

Trans issues may cost Democrats PAGE 12	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What do you think this article is about, based on its headline?</li> <li>2. What does the term, "sleeping issue," mean in an election? According to the article, what "sleeping issue" could "cost Democrats' control of Congress?"</li> <li>3. What are the two sides of the debate related to transgender athletes?</li> <li>4. How do you feel about this news story?</li> </ol>
Gaza: How much more can Palestinians endure? PAGE 15	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How, if at all, do you think the author expects the question in the headline to be answered?</li> <li>2. How, if at all, do you think the conflict in the Middle East could impact the U.S. presidential election?</li> <li>3. What is a genocide, and do you believe what is happening in Gaza is a genocide?</li> <li>4. Why is it important for you to know about events in other parts of the world?</li> </ol>
Search: Why lawyers are suddenly Googling 'breakup' PAGE 20	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How would you explain this news story to someone else?</li> <li>2. According to the article, why does the Department of Justice want to split up Google? How would this action impact Google, the American consumer, or you personally?</li> <li>3. How does Google impact the internet search market?</li> <li>4. Do you think Google should be broken up? Why or why not?</li> </ol>

**FEATURE OF THE WEEK:** Cover

Invite students to look at this week's cover and answer the questions.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe the illustration on this week's cover.</li> <li>2. What news story is being illustrated here? What do you think the illustrator's point of view is on this story, based on the choices in the illustration?</li> <li>3. Sketch a different illustration that shows the same or a different point of view about this news story.</li> </ol>
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<b>MAIN ACTIVITY OF THE WEEK #1:</b> Based on the article, "Harris: Can she win back wavering Black, Latino voters?" (p. 6)	
<b>VOCABULARY</b>	wavering, historically, unflinching, blitz, unveiled, policy agenda, gender gap, polling panic, toxic, pandering, condescension, pandering, sexist, policymakers, flocking, sliver, electorate
<b>DISCUSS</b>	1. How reliable do you think the polls are in a presidential race? 2. In your opinion, what is the most important message each candidate needs to deliver to Black and Latino voters in the final weeks of the campaign?
<b>DO</b>	1. Write the headline from the article on the board, and challenge small groups to predict what the article is about and the details that support it. 2. Invite student groups to read and annotate the article and highlight all statements and quotes that would help them answer the question in the headline. 3. Challenge student groups to list demographic groups that candidates and campaigns likely track during presidential elections. Encourage groups to consider age, gender, race, religion, education levels, geographic location, and political party affiliation. Invite each group to present its list, and try to reach consensus on a class list. 4. Direct each group to select one of the demographic groups to further study. Using sites like <a href="#">FiveThirtyEight.com</a> , <a href="#">270toWin</a> , and <a href="#">realclearpolling</a> , challenge students to identify how their demographic group is usually divided up in polling data; the issues that matter most to their demographic group as a whole or within individual sectors; how their demographic group voted in the 2020 presidential campaign; and what current polling reveals about how their demographic group likely will vote in the 2024 presidential election. Based on what they learned, encourage them to summarize the most important messaging that either Vice President Harris or former President Trump can convey to their demographic group in the final weeks of the campaign. 5. Invite each group to present its data and messaging to the rest of the class. 6. Finally, invite students to answer the question in the headline.
<b>EXTEND</b>	Invite students to create an imaginary social media post on X, Instagram, Facebook, or Tik Tok from one of the presidential candidates to one of the demographic groups from the activity.

<b>MAIN ACTIVITY OF THE WEEK #2:</b> Based on the article, "America's swing state obsession" (p. 12)	
<b>VOCABULARY</b>	obsession, swing state, mania, institution, Electoral College, purple state, economically, swing-state, fracking, polarized, democracy
<b>DISCUSS</b>	1. Why do you think the founders allowed for electors? 2. Do you think the Electoral College is fair?
<b>DO</b>	1. Divide students into four groups. Invite two groups to read and summarize <a href="#">Article II, Section I</a> of the US Constitution, which focuses on the process of electing the president and the vice president. Invite the two other groups to read and annotate the <a href="#">12th amendment to the U.S. Constitution</a> which created a change to this process. Invite each group to share its summary and work as a class to accurately describe how the president and vice president are elected in the United States. 2. Ask students why they think the founders allowed for electors rather than having the winner of the popular vote (a sum total of each individual's vote) determine the winner of the presidential election. Answers to this and other questions about the Electoral College can be found <a href="#">here</a> , <a href="#">here</a> , and <a href="#">here</a> . 3. Ask students if they think there has ever been a president who was elected president after losing the popular vote but winning the Electoral College vote. Invite them to <a href="#">read</a> about five presidents with this distinction. 4. Invite students to read the article and determine how the Electoral College relates to the seven swing states in the 2024 presidential election, why they think the Electoral College has been historically unpopular, and whether they agree that swing state politics is "harming democracy". 5. Finally, using the data they have collected, challenge students to predict the Electoral College results in one of the swing states in the 2024 presidential election and justify their predictions.
<b>EXTEND</b>	Invite students to pick a presidential election in history and <a href="#">view the Electoral College results from their election here</a> .

\* Note : On your computer or mobile device, click or tap blue links to access linked content. Visit [www.theweek.com/teachers](http://www.theweek.com/teachers) to see all our lesson guides.