

THE WEEK



The Week
at a
Glance



5	Republicans hold edge in race to control Congress	News	As candidates for Congress embarked on their last flurry of campaigning, Republicans appeared primed to retake the Senate, while the fight for the House of Representatives remained a toss-up.	Politics Government
6	Bezos: Why he spiked his paper's endorsement of Harris	News	Eleven days before the election, the <i>Washington Post's</i> multi-billionaire owner, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, personally killed an endorsement of Kamala Harris from his paper's editorial board.	Politics Media Studies
7	Vancouver, Wash.: Ballot-box arson	News	Two fires started by incendiary devices marked with the words "Free Gaza" destroyed hundreds of mail-in ballots in what Washington's Secretary of State Steve Hobbs deemed "acts of terror."	Politics Legal Studies
16	Abortion: A winning issue for Harris?	Opinion	If Kamala Harris wins on Nov. 5, "it will be in large part because of abortion," said Charlotte Alter in <i>Time</i> . In the final days of a deadlocked race, the vice president has leaned heavily into reproductive rights to "galvanize women voters."	Politics Civics
17	Trump: Will rally racism cost him?	Opinion	For "a visceral taste of what a second Trump administration might look like," said Matt Ford in <i>The New Republic</i> , look no further than this week's rally at Madison Square Garden in New York City. It was a showcase of some of the "basest, crudest, and most hateful impulses in American life."	Politics

BRIEFLY: Quick Questions & Ideas To Engage Students

Bezos: Why he spiked his paper's endorsement of Harris PAGE 6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do you know about Jeff Bezos? 2. What does the phrase, "democracy dies in darkness" mean? What did the columnist mean by, "democracy died in broad daylight"? 3. According to the article, why did Jeff Bezos "kill" his newspaper's endorsement of Kamala Harris? 4. How important do you think endorsements from newspapers, sports figures, celebrities, or political leaders are in an election? Whose endorsement, if any, would most influence your vote?
What mass deportation would mean PAGE 12	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do you predict this article is about? 2. How have illegal immigration and border policies impacted this year's presidential election? 3. What claim does the columnist make about the Trump/Vance mass deportation plan? What evidence does he use to support his claim? 4. How do you feel about this news story?
GOP: An avalanche of transphobic ads PAGE 16	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why do you think the GOP has invested millions of dollars in anti-trans ads in the final days of the election? How do you think that political strategists determine which issues to invest in? 2. What specific trans-related issues have been focused on most? Why do you think these issues have been a focus of the GOP? 3. With which quote from the article do you most agree? Most disagree? What are you most curious about?

FEATURE OF THE WEEK: Cover

Invite students to look at this week's cover and answer the questions.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the illustration on this week's cover. 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? 3. Sketch a different illustration that shows the same or a different point of view about this news story.
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MAIN ACTIVITY OF THE WEEK #1: Based on the several articles about the election in this week's issue	
VOCABULARY	democracy, reproductive rights, immigration, border control, foreign policy, tariffs, tax credits, the economy, equal rights, climate change, gun violence
DISCUSS	1. What issue(s) do you think matter most in this election to people your age? 2. What issue(s) are most important to you in this presidential election?
DO	1. Write the following issues on separate signs, and hang the signs in different areas of the room: democracy, reproductive rights, the economy, Immigration/border control, foreign policy, tariffs/taxes, equal rights, climate change, and gun control. 2. Invite students to get up and stand by the sign that they believe will have the biggest impact in the results of the 2024 presidential election. Discuss the results. Then, invite them to move to the sign they think young voters (18-24) care about most. Invite students at different signs to justify their answers.. Next, invite them to move to the sign that they personally care about most. Discuss the exercise. What most surprised them? Invite students to learn more about the potential impact of different issues on the 2024 presidential race here . 3. Introduce the term "single issue voter," and ask students what they think the term means. Explain that some voters base their votes on the candidate's stance on a single question of public policy which has been a source of disagreement between political ideologies. Controversial issues such as reproductive rights and gun rights are examples. Ask students why they think some voters would select one issue on which to base their vote. Explain that many single issue voters tend to formulate their view on a particular issue by recalling how that issue has affected them in the past and projecting how it might affect them in the future. 4. Invite student groups to select one of the issues from the introductory activity to learn more about. For their issue, challenge them to describe the issue and why it is important, summarize Kamala Harris's and Donald Trump's positions on the issue, find an article from this week's issue that references the issue and summarize what they learned, and find at least three current polls that measure the importance of the issue to voters in one or more demographics. Polling data can be found here , here , and here . 5. Finally, challenge each group to make a claim using evidence of how, if at all, their issue will impact the 2024 presidential election.
EXTEND	Invite students to learn about the 9 most contentious presidential elections in US history.

MAIN ACTIVITY OF THE WEEK #2: Based on several articles about the election in this week's issue	
DISCUSS	1. How and why do we use predictive polling and modeling to predict election results? 2. How much faith do you have in predictive models for elections?
DO	1. Anonymously poll students to see which candidate they think will win the presidential election. Discuss the results of the poll. Ask students what evidence, if any, they used to formulate their answers and how confident they are in the candidate they predicted to be the winner. 2. Ask students to list the types of evidence that can be used to help predict the winner in a presidential election. If polling is listed, ask students to identify factors that could skew polling results. Examples include the way a question is phrased, the number of people polled, the party or views of the people polled, the polling method, the margin of error, etc. 3. Ask students what, if anything, they know about the 13 "Keys to the White House," created by historian Allan Lichtman. Explain that Lichtman has accurately predicted 9 of the last 10 presidential winners using these 13 keys. Invite students to predict what the Keys might be. Explain that the Keys are statements that favor the re-election of the incumbent party. When five or fewer statements are false, the incumbent party wins. When six or more are false, the challenging party wins. Invite student groups to review the Keys below and use Lichtman's predictive model to predict this year's winner. They can use information from the issue and additional research to help them identify the statements as true or false. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Key 1: After the midterm elections, the incumbent party holds more seats in the U.S. House of Representatives than it did after the previous midterm elections. ● Key 2: There is no serious contest for the incumbent-party nomination. ● Key 3: The incumbent-party candidate is the sitting president. ● Key 4: There is no significant third-party or independent campaign. ● Key 5: The economy is not in recession during the election campaign. ● Key 6: Real per-capita economic growth during the term equals or exceeds mean growth during the previous two terms. ● Key 7: The incumbent administration effects major changes in national policy. ● Key 8: There is no sustained social unrest during the term. ● Key 9: The incumbent administration is untainted by major scandal. ● Key 10: The incumbent administration suffers no major failure in foreign or military affairs. ● Key 11: The incumbent administration achieves a major success in foreign or military affairs. ● Key 12: The incumbent-party candidate is charismatic or a national hero. ● Key 13: The challenging-party candidate is not charismatic or a national hero. 4. Invite student groups to share which statements they identified as true, which they identified as false, and which they had trouble answering. 5. Then, invite students to watch Professor Lichtman make his prediction , including a breakdown of his Keys.
EXTEND	Invite students to use this electoral map to track results on election night.