

THE WEEK

**The Week
at a
Glance**



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| 4 | Harris, Trump battle for edge in tight race | News | Donald Trump and Kamala Harris jockeyed for advantage this week as polls showed a neck-and-neck race for the White House, with former President Trump promising new tariffs and a crackdown on immigration and Vice President Harris unveiling plans to protect abortion rights and spur domestic manufacturing. | Politics |
| 5 | Israel pummels Lebanon ahead of possible invasion | News | Israel pounded Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon with hundreds of airstrikes and called up reserves this week as it prepared for a possible ground incursion, its first into its northern neighbor since 2006. | World News |
| 11 | Voting on abortion rights | News | A record number of abortion initiatives will appear on state ballots this year—many of them in presidential battlegrounds. | Politics Government Civics |
| 16 | Senate: A tough fight for Democrats | Opinion | As Donald Trump and Kamala Harris battle for the presidency, their parties are locked in a tight race for Senate control, said Robert Tait in <i>The Guardian</i> . And right now, “the GOP has the edge.” | Politics Government |
| 20 | Teen tech: Instagram tries to limit the damage | Opinion | Instagram, the photo and video-sharing app owned by Meta rolled out a slew of changes last week aimed at its youngest users. The biggest change is that “Meta will now designate users under 18 as ‘Teen Accounts’—by default.” | Media Studies Digital Literacy Business |

BRIEFLY: Quick Questions & Ideas To Engage Students

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| Bonne Terre, Mo.: Lethal injection PAGE 7 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do you know about the history of and current laws related to capital punishment in the US and in your state? 2. What recent execution is described in the article? Why is this execution so controversial? 3. How would you summarize both sides of the debate about capital punishment? 4. With which side of the debate do you most align, and why? |
| Tagovailoa: A case study in NFL brain injuries PAGE 17 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How would you summarize this article in just six words? 2. Do you think Tua Tagovailoa should continue to play professional football? Why or why not? 3. How would you answer this question from the article: At what point does the league need to protect Tua from Tua? 4. What, if anything, is the NFL's responsibility related to concussions and CTE? |
| Diddy: Will his arrest remake rap culture? PAGE 24 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why was Sean Combs, also known as rapper P. Diddy, in the news this week? 2. What, if anything, does this arrest reveal about the hip-hop industry? 3. What larger societal issue(s) does this story represent? 4. How would you answer the question in the headline: How will his arrest remake rap culture? |

FEATURE OF THE WEEK: Cover

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| 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 article, "Harris, Trump battle for edge in tight race" (p. 4) | |
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| VOCABULARY | neck-and-neck, spur, domestic, pragmatist, constrained, ideology, filibuster, stance, assailed, moderate, tariffs, renaissance, immigrants, rhetoric, deport, undocumented, incognito, coup, spiraling, deranged, predator, chaotic |
| DISCUSS | 1. How, if at all, do you think political polls impact an election? 2. What is the most important message or piece of information for each candidate to communicate in the next six weeks? |
| DO | 1. Hang 12 signs in different places around the room, and write one of the following issues on each of the signs: immigration/border control, the economy, health care, climate change, gun control, reproductive rights, Supreme Court, taxes, education, trade, foreign affairs, and national defense. Direct students to stand by the sign that reflects the issue that they think is the most important one facing our nation right now. Tally the results. Then, invite students to stand by the sign that reflects the issue that is most important to them personally. Tally those results. Finally, direct them to stand by the sign that they think will be most important in deciding this year's presidential election. Tally those results. Identify the issues that ranked highest in each category. Respectfully discuss students' positions on these issues and why they think they are important. 2. Direct students to create a four-column chart and list each issue in the first column, their personal thoughts/positions about each issue in the second column, anything they know about Vice President Harris' position on each issue in the third, and anything they know about former President Trump's position on each issue on the fourth. They can research the Harris campaign's positions here and the Trump campaign's positions here. 3. Divide students into 10 issue groups, and assign each group one of the issues. Challenge each group to conduct research to learn more about Harris and Trump's positions on each issue and to find and annotate an article about their issue from this week's issue. Invite groups to report out their research to the rest of the class. As each group reports out, direct students to record which candidate's position most aligns with theirs. 4. Repeat the introductory exercise and challenge students to complete these sentences: The issue on which I am most aligned with the Harris/Trump administration's position is _____. The issue on which I am least aligned is _____. |
| EXTEND | Invite students to track the latest presidential election polls at fivethirtyeight.com . |

| MAIN ACTIVITY OF THE WEEK #2: Based on the feature, "Senate: A tough fight for Democrats" (p. 16) | |
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| VOCABULARY | centrist, vulnerable demographic, moderate, entrepreneur, agenda, poll, teeters, long shots, margins, skeptical |
| DISCUSS | 1. What is the Senate responsible for, and why is a majority in the Senate so significant for a political party? 2. What issues are important enough to sway your vote in a state or federal election? |
| DO | 1. Write these numbers on the board, and challenge students to identify each number's significance as it relates to the 2024 Senate races: 100, 51, 49, 34, and 2. (There are 100 Senators. Democrats currently occupy 51 of those seats, and Republicans occupy 49 of them, giving Democrats the current majority. 34 seats are up and have elections in 2024. Republicans can gain control of the Senate with 2 net seats.) 2. Ask students what they know about the job of US Senators, how Senators are elected, and why having a majority in the Senate is so important to a political party. Invite them to read the article, watch this video , read this article , and explore this site to learn more. 3. Then, invite student groups to analyze this interactive map of the 2024 Senate races. The map allows them to see the current makeup of the Senate, and more details about each of the 34 2024 Senate races. Challenge student groups to identify the races that are considered either a "toss up," meaning they could go to either party, or are just leaning toward one party or another currently. Once they identify those races, direct them to compare their answers with another group. 4. Direct each group to select one of the races on their list to learn more about. Challenge them to learn the names and platforms of each candidate, whether one of the candidates is an incumbent, historical winning parties in the state, the issues that matter most to voters in that state, and the results of 3-5 current polls about the race. 5. Based on what they learned, invite each group to predict the winner of the race they researched and to be able to justify their choice. 6. Invite each group to present its predictions. |
| EXTEND | Invite students to go on a virtual tour of the US Capitol. |

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