

THE WEEK

**The Week
at a
Glance**



5	Court allows six-week abortion ban in Florida	News	Florida became a major abortion rights battleground this week, after the state supreme court in two decisions greenlit both a near-total abortion ban and a November ballot referendum to enshrine abortion rights in the Florida constitution.	Government Legal Studies Civics
6	RFK, Jr.: Who will his 'spoiler' campaign hurt most?	News	Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. "doesn't have a chance of getting elected" president, said Paul du Quenoy in the <i>New York Post</i> —but if Kennedy gets on enough state ballots, "neither does Joe Biden."	Politics American History
7	Washington, D.C.: Loyalty test	News	In the wake of a purge by Donald Trump allies at the Republican National Committee, candidates reapplying for their jobs were asked if they believe the 2020 election was stolen, <i>The Washington Post</i> reported last week.	Politics Government American History
17	Polls: A comeback for Biden?	Opinion	"Finally, some good news for President Biden," said Nia-Malika Henderson in <i>Bloomberg</i> . He's gained substantial ground on Donald Trump in six of seven critical swing states in a new <i>Bloomberg News/Morning Consult</i> poll.	Politics
33	Social Security: Should the U.S. raise the retirement age?	Business	For decades, 65 was the "anchor" to which Americans attached their ideas about the end of the working life. But with record numbers of Baby Boomers hitting that age, those retirement plans no longer look sustainable.	Business

BRIEFLY: Quick Questions & Ideas To Engage Students

Edinburgh: Rowling vs. hate-crime law PAGE 8	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do you know about author J.K. Rowling and why she is in the news this week? 2. According to the article, why was a decision made not to prosecute Rowling under Scotland's new hate-crime law? 3. Do you feel Rowling was exercising her First Amendment rights, or that her comments should have been prosecuted? Explain your answer. 4. Should we be able to say whatever we want on social media, without limitations? If so, why? If not, what should the limitations be?
AI: The floodgates are open PAGE 17	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do you know about Artificial Intelligence (AI), its benefits, and its risks? 2. What claim about AI is made in the article? 3. What evidence is presented to support that claim? Which piece of evidence from the article is most surprising? Most concerning? 4. In the age of AI, how can you verify if content you are consuming is authentic?
Social Security: Should the U.S. raise the retirement age? PAGE 33	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At what age should people be able to retire and receive retirement benefits? 2. Why do you think there is an argument to raise the retirement age beyond 65? 3. What would be the benefits and downsides to workers, employers, and the economy of raising the retirement age? 4. What do you think the ideal retirement age is, and why?

FEATURE OF THE WEEK: The 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 story from this week's issue does the cover image represent? 3. What do you think the illustrator's point of view is about this news story? 4. What techniques does the illustrator use to represent his or her point of view?
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MAIN ACTIVITY OF THE WEEK #1: Based on the article, "RFK Jr.: Who will his 'spoiler' campaign hurt most?" (p. 6)	
VOCABULARY	spoiler, candidacy, entrepreneur, undisclosed, bankroll, cringe, ballot, immigrant, radical, heat-seeking missile, fixation, anti-establishment, casting, appealing, margin, operatives, loony, autism, surveillance, pied piper, siphons, eccentric
DISCUSSION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why do you think third-party candidates typically struggle in presidential elections? 2. Why does the United States have a two-party political system?
DO	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Write the following John Adams quote on the board, and ask students to interpret it and determine its relevance today: "There is nothing which I dread so much as a division of the republic into two great parties, each arranged under its leader, and concerting measures in opposition to each other. This, in my humble opinion, is to be dreaded as the greatest political evil under our Constitution." Explain that the Founders didn't intend to create a country with a two-party system. However, as the Electoral College evolved into a "winner take all" system in which three or more strong parties would make it nearly impossible to get to the required 270 electoral votes to win, a two-party system emerged. 2. Ask students what they think the advantages and disadvantages are of a two-party system. Do they agree with Adams that a two-party system is a "political evil"? Why or why not? 3. Ask students to share what they know about third-party presidential candidates throughout history. How many third-party presidential candidates from history can they name? What is the role of third-party candidates in political elections? What third-party candidate from history received the highest number of votes in a presidential election? Invite groups to pair up with other groups to compare answers. Then, invite them to go here to research the answers. 4. Direct student groups to select a third-party presidential candidate from this list and conduct research to learn which year the candidate ran, his or her party or platform, whether he or she received any votes, and whether he or she had an impact on the election that year. Direct each group to present its candidate to the rest of the class and to reach consensus on whether any of these candidates impacted the elections they ran in. 5. Ask students if they know the names of any third-party candidates running in the 2024 presidential election. Invite them to read and annotate the article and discuss the following: What third-party candidate is featured? What big news did he make last week? What positions of this candidate are outlined in the article? With which of those positions do you agree? Disagree? What impact could his candidacy and/or his Vice Presidential choice have on the presidential race? 6. Challenge student pairs to complete the following sentence, "We believe that the Kennedy ticket will most hurt the Biden/Trump campaign. Three pieces of evidence that support this position are _____. Invite pairs to present to someone with an opposing point of view. Discuss evidence, and challenge the new groups to reach consensus, if possible.
EXTEND	Challenge students to create a 30-second video to persuade young voters to vote for or against Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

MAIN ACTIVITY OF THE WEEK #2: Based on the article, "Polls: A comeback for Biden?" (p. 17)	
VOCABULARY	substantial, swing states, fiery, dispelling, narrative, comeback, fundraising, bounce, courting, consumer confidence, precarious, hovers. Incumbent, fool's errand, morally, civically, degraded
DISCUSS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How much faith do you put into political polls before an election? 2. Do you think there should be an age limit on presidential candidates? If yes, what should it be? If not, why not?
DO	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Distribute index cards to students, and ask them to anonymously write "yes" or "no" to answer the following question: "Have you ever lied to a teacher?" Collect papers and put them aside. Then, ask students to raise their hands to answer "yes" or "no" to the same question. Compare answers from each questioning method. Ask students if they were more comfortable answering anonymously or in front of others. Ask how this introductory exercise relates to political polling. 2. Explain to students that political polling, a type of public opinion polling, has been around for many years. The mission of political polling is to gauge the political opinion of the entire nation by asking only a small sample of likely voters. Ask students what public opinions presidential candidates might be interested in learning about. Consider which candidate they are likely to vote for, how they feel about certain issues, whether their messaging is being perceived as positive or negative, or even whether voters consider a candidate to be too old to run for office. 3. Further explain that George Gallup was one of the first scientific practitioners of polling in the 1930's and Franklin Roosevelt was the first American president to use a private polling service to advise him on both election strategy and public policy. John F. Kennedy's 1960 campaign relied heavily on public opinion polls, and every American presidential candidate since has used polling information as part of his or her campaign strategy. 4. Ask students what factors they think would be important to ensure the accuracy of polling results. Invite them to go here to learn about representative samples, margins of error, question structure, and types of polling. Then, invite them to read this article to learn about how and why polls were wrong in the 2016 presidential election. 5. Invite students to read and annotate the article and summarize why recent polling data reflects good news for President Biden. Do they think these polls are reliable? Is it too early in the race to rely on polling data? Why or why not? 6. Invite students to analyze the results of three recent presidential polls from FiveThirtyEight.com, Gallup, or 270toWin. 6. Based on what they have learned, challenge them to predict and defend who will win the presidency.
EXTEND	Invite students to use what they have learned to design, conduct, and analyze a poll related to the presidential election.

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