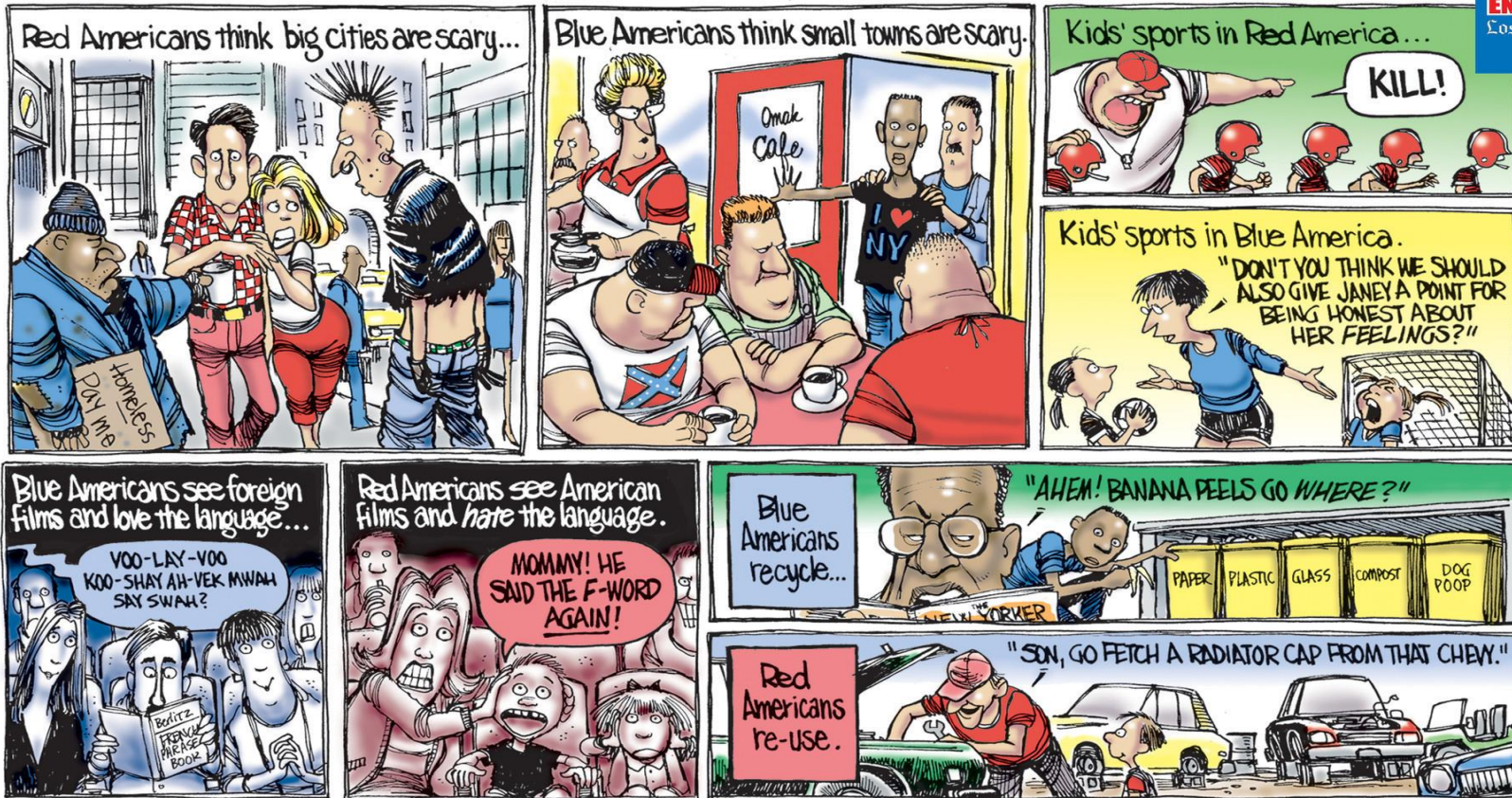


Welcome to AP US Government & Politics!

A Guide to **RED** & **BLUE** America... part 1



As you enter the room, please choose a desk and have a seat.

1. Fill all inner-circle desks first.
2. Once all inner-circle desks are filled, begin filling desks in the outer circle.
3. Once you have a seat, use the blank sheet of paper to create a name tent
(Basic rule for camping & name tents: They should stand on their own!)
1. Then begin working on the warm up portion of the Discussion sheet at your desk.

Lesson Objective & Essential Questions

■ Lesson Objective:

- Today we will conduct a Socratic Seminar to discuss and explore some of the country's most divisive issues, possible solutions, and our classroom's role in modeling political progress them.

■ Lesson Essential Questions:

1. What are possible solutions to the most divisive issues in our country today?
2. How can our class work to model political progress that bridges some of these divisions?

Expectations & Evaluation

Today's discussion is a way for me to get to know you and your peers better. I'm observing the following items:

- **Leadership & Participation (10 pts)**- Are you willing to share your thoughts with the class? Are you willing to push the conversation forward by offering new questions or points of consideration?
- **Listening & Respect for others (10 pts)**- Do you respect ALL of your peers by listening carefully to their views and using other's perspectives to drive your own? Do you respect perspectives that differ from your own?
- **Collaboration & Team Support (5 pts)**- Are you willing to support your partner by providing them with notes & written insights while you are observing the inner-circle? Are you willing to help a partner or peer who is struggling to participate?
- **Conduct (5 pts)**- Do you remain engaged in the discussion at all times throughout the activity without being distracted or being a distraction?

Expectations for Discussion

These are the expectations for today's discussion.

1. Be respectful of everyone in the classroom.
2. Only one person can be speaking at a time during the debate.
3. Raise your hand to be recognized by the moderator.
4. Be an active listener. You must acknowledge the previous point made in the discussion before you can contribute an argument of your own.
5. If you are unsure how to present a controversial point, try to pose the idea in the form of a question for others to consider. If you know it will not be received well, save the thought for later and check in about it with Mr. Fox.
6. Everyone must participate with *high quality* responses at least 3 times!

Seminar Process

- Today we will have 3 discussion prompts.
- You will have roughly 8-10 minutes to discuss each prompt.
- **Partner Debate Process:**
 - This will be a *Pilot/Co-Pilot* discussion.
 - We will use our *Pilot/Co-Pilot* routine where the partner on the inside will be permitted to participate in the discussion, while the outside partner can only communicate through notes to assist.
 - Use the notecards provided.
 - You will need to switch in and out of your multiple times to ensure that you both have participated at least 3 times, while also meeting the expectations of the rubric.

Discussion Question #1



- **Warm Up:** If you have not done so already, bring your **ORANGE** post-it note to the back board and stick it under Discussion Question #1.
 - Make a list of the political, social, economic & cultural issues that are most divisive for the American population.
- **1-2 minutes: Bring your paper and pencil to the board.**
 - Look over people's responses and add any that you found interesting or that you did not think of.
 - We will then briefly discuss your thoughts on these problems.

Discussion Question #2



After listening and discussing the warm up:

- Which of the issues that the group has discussed do you feel is the most significant and/or impactful to you?
 - Explain why addressing this issue should be a major priority for the American people.

Discussion Question #3



After listening and discussing question 2:

- What are some possible solutions to bridging the political divisions in American society?
 - Consider broad/general actions that the American people, the state and federal governments, corporations and other institutions should take to address these problems.

Exit Ticket



- Bring your **YELLOW** post-it note to the front board and stick it under Discussion Question #4.
 - If you were limited to a one-word solution to as many of the problems/divisive issues we discussed today as possible, what would it be?