

“Making a Big Noise” – song lyrics

“The Star-Spangled Banner,” Francis Scott Key (1779 – 1843)

“The Sunny Side of the Street,” Dorothy Fields, Jimmy McHugh (sung by Billie Holiday)

”Chicago,” Fred Fisher (sung by Tony Bennett)

This democracy respects involvement and rewards it, and disdains aloofness and punishes it. If you stay away from this system, you will get hurt by this system. If you go into this system and use it well, you will be rewarded by it.

Mario Cuomo

Former Governor of New York State

If you want your agenda to be advanced in the real sense, that is in the sense of passing laws, then you have to find a way to elect a majority—and to use that majority to effect change...and that having debates on important issues and winning the argument isn't enough. You have to win elections.

David Jennings

Former Speaker of the House in Minnesota

POLITICS IS WHAT WE DO INSTEAD OF SHOOTING OUR OPPONENTS.

A Voter

LEARNING OBJECTIVES FOR “MAKING A BIG NOISE”

(Running time 63 minutes)

INSIGHT = Discussions of *Exploring Fundamental Concepts* and *Investigating Parallel Themes* as listed below

CONTRIBUTING INFORMATION = The role of the lobbyist

BACKGROUND INFORMATION = how legislators get their bills passed

EXPLORING FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS

<p>ACCESS TO POWER What must a candidate do to win the majority of votes?</p>	<p>ACCESS TO POWER How can voters gain enough power to get their candidate elected?</p>
--	--

INVESTIGATING PARALLEL THEMES

<p>1. How important is it to be the incumbent, to run on one’s record?</p>	<p>1. How and where can voters find others who will join with them to get the desired benefits? Are there voter organizations in your country?</p>
<p>2. What effects do special interest groups have on an election?</p>	<p>2. Why are coalitions not stable over time? What kind of coalitions are/could be formed in your country?</p>
<p>3. How does a candidate get funding for his/her campaign?</p>	<p>3. What is the power of compromise? What are the weaknesses of compromise?</p>
<p>4. Should there be limits to the amount of money donated to a candidate? Why or why not?</p>	<p>4. What is meant by “politics makes strange bedfellows?”</p>

VOCABULARY ITEMS

WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO DO TO GET ELECTED? And VENTNOR POOL
 (viewing time 15 minutes)

This section focuses on the power of small groups who band together and “make some noise” to get a candidate elected and on an alderman using his campaigning strategies of the personal touch.

- Condo complex: condominium homes sharing common grounds that are purchased, sometimes for retirement; similar to apartments
- Donkey/elephant: symbols for the Democratic and Republican parties, respectively
- Fell off a freight train: referring to very poor people, bums, hoboes, tramps, etc., who used to ride in the empty cars of a freight train going from place to place looking for work to stand beside a road and stick out your thumb to try to get a passing motorist to stop and give you a ride
- Hitchhike: from place to place looking for work to stand beside a road and stick out your thumb to try to get a passing motorist to stop and give you a ride
- Screwed up: mixed up, not functioning properly

Voting block:	a group of people joined together to vote in support of a candidate or issue
Where's mine?	another way of saying "What's in it for me?" or "How will this benefit me?"
Yellow-dog Democrat:	from the old saying, "He'd vote for a yellow dog if it ran on the Democratic ticket"; a loyal partisan voter

CHANGE PARTNERS AND DANCE – viewing time 25 minutes

This section focuses on the causes and practice of forming and dissolving coalitions between and among white ethnic groups, Latinos, and Blacks in the Chicago mayoral races.

A no-no:	something that must not be done
Back of the bus:	Blacks were not allowed to ride in the front of the bus in the southern states until the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and 1970s.
Back to the plantation:	referring to the days when Blacks were slaves
Bottom line:	the final, desired result or obligation
Call-in talk show:	radio programs where the listening audience is encouraged to telephone the on-line reporter to voice his/her opinion on an issue, without fear an alliance, sometimes temporary, between two or more groups to get something done, usually political in nature
Coalition:	get rid of
Dump:	someone currently holding political office
Incumbent:	test of one single factor such as candidate qualifications for office and /or how a voter will vote
Litmus test:	building up a group of people who might be beneficial in some way to someone, often temporary in nature
Networking:	the details to be taken care of before a result can be reached
Nuts and bolts:	gaining access to someone who can be helpful in getting something done
Opening doors:	the people who must be given money in order for them to agree to what is asked of them
Palms to be greased:	something described in extreme, usually pleasant, terms that is not likely to happen
Pie-in-the-sky:	a system in which a specific group of people are allotted a fixed or maximum level of representation
Quota system:	a term coined to describe the bringing together of people of different races to work toward a common goal
Rainbow coalition:	forcing someone to do something through threats or getting money under false pretenses
Shake down:	magic
Sleight-of-hand:	unimportant people, issues or money
Small potatoes:	

Square peg in a round hole:	someone who does not fit in a particular situation, or group
Spoils of victory:	what one gains from winning
To get in bed with:	to forge an unlikely alliance between normally antagonistic persons or groups to accomplish a specific aim
Unite the tribes:	bringing together groups that are sometimes in conflict with one another to jointly benefit from a mutual good
Wheeler-dealer:	a person who can make many things happen, usually quickly

ONE YEAR LATER – viewing time 23 minutes

This section focuses on lobbyists and their importance in bringing issues to the floor, and the negotiating necessary by congresspersons to get their desired bill passed. It needs to be pointed out in this part that getting other congresspersons to vote for your bill is often an informal agreement and that the person so negotiating will be expected to help his/her constituents when it comes time to vote for their bills. (You scratch my back, I'll scratch yours.)

Count heads:	count the number of people in a room, or the number of people who will vote, agree, with an issue
Fake it:	pretend something or do something with little preparation
Grunt work:	all the small detailed work necessary to gain a result
It's a crock!:	not true
Jack of all trades:	someone who can do many different things
Lobbying:	speaking to influential members of congress, or other group, to get a decision made, a bill passed
Move mountains:	get difficult, or seemingly impossible, things done
Not brain surgery:	something that does not take a great intellect or high level of education
On the money:	exactly right
Power broker:	someone who has a great deal of power
Special interest groups:	organizations that have one major product which they want to protect or expand, such as oil companies, the tobacco industry, the medical profession, etc.
Sucks:	(vulgar) very bad, terrible, intolerable
To get flaky:	to not be dependable

CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

Brainstorm some interesting issues that are confronting your viewers and select one by voting. Break into several small groups for the purpose that the various groups will try to form into 2 coalitions, one to support the issue and the other to defeat it. What strategies, promises, and compromises must they use to get others to join their particular group?

SONG LYRICS

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

Upon watching the courageous defense of Fort McHenry by the American soldiers during the British attack of September 13, 1814, Francis Scott Key wrote the poem which has become our national anthem.

Oh, say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore, dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected now shines on the stream:
'Tis the star-spangled banner! O long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion
A home and a country should leave us no more?
Their blood has wiped out their foul footstep's pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave:
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
Between their loved homes and the war's desolation!

Blest with victory and peace, may the heaven-rescued land
 Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.
 Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
 And this be our motto: "In God is our trust."
 And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
 O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

ON THE SUNNY SIDE OF THE STREET

Grab your coat and get your hat
 Leave your worry on the doorstep
 Just direct your feet
 To the sunny side of the street

Can't you hear a pitter pat
 And that happy tune is your step
 Life can be so sweet
 On the sunny side of the street

I used to walk in the shade
 With those blues on parade
 But now I'm not afraid

This rover crossed over
 If I'd never have a cent
 I'd be rich as Rockefeller
 Going to set my feet
 On the sunny side of the street

CHICAGO

Chicago, Chicago, that toddlin' town
 Chicago, Chicago, I'll show you around
 Bet your bottom dollar you'll lose the blues
 in Chicago
 Chicago, the town that "Mart Faye" could
 not shut down

On State Street, that great street
 I just want to say
 They do things that they don't do on
 Broadway, say

They have the time, the time of their life
 I saw a man, he danced with his wife
 In Chicago, my home town