

TEACHER GUIDE

1984 DOC. #4: *Time* Ferraro Interview

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Walter Mondale chose former New York Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro to be his running mate. This was the first time that a woman had been chosen as a major party's nominee for national office. Ferraro was an experienced and skilled campaigner, though questions about her husband's finances and her pro-choice position on abortion often kept her on the defensive.

In recent modern elections the interview format has often been used to introduce candidates to the public. Interviews happen in many different ways – from serious political discussions on Sunday morning news programs to funny stories and banter on late night talk shows. By allowing the public to become involved, call-in shows on talk radio and cable television can simulate a town hall meeting.

- > **Project** the document and **hand out** the interview.
- > **Explain:** This document is a *Time* magazine interview with Ferraro from the week after she was chosen as Walter Mondale's running mate. As you read the interview, pay attention to the questions that are asked.
- > **Have** students read the interview silently or as a class.

QUESTION (projected on the slide) **Which best describes the focus of the interview questions?**

- **policy issues**
- **campaign issues**
- **gender issues**
- **personal character issues**

Give evidence to back up your answer.

SUGGESTED ANSWER The interview questions are mostly related to gender and campaigning.

EVIDENCE of the eleven interview questions, more than half relate to issues of gender and the campaign, a few could be related to issues of personal character, and only the final question potentially touches on policy issues

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***Time* Ferraro Interview, July 23, 1984**

**PowerPoint Slide
Student Handout**

QUESTION

How might the questions have been different if Mondale’s running mate had been a man?

SUGGESTED ANSWER

If Mondale’s running mate had been a man, it is likely that questions would have focused on campaign issues, policy, and personal character, but it is unlikely that there would have been any questions about gender.

FURTHER QUESTIONS

Is this interview sexist?

What questions would you have asked Ferraro if you were the *Time* correspondent? Why?

What hurdles do women, minorities, and poor people encounter when trying to break into a political system dominated by wealthy white men?

CONNECTIONS

(see thematic listing)

“Family Man (Woman)”

Media Bias

Reaching Voters (interview)