

Sample Editorials Memo

1. **Make Home Schooling Safe for Children (NY Times, 11/15)**

- (1) Most teachers would immediately have sounded the alarm had they encountered the harrowingly thin 10-year-old. (I can't understand the structure of this sentence.)
- (2) This **hands-off** approach is especially problematic for disabled children. (hands-off: no interference)

Original: While parents have a right to decide how their children will be educated, the state has an obligation to ensure that every American child is learning basic skills.

Paraphrase: Although parents can decide their children's educational matters, the state still has a responsibility to make every American child learn basic skills.

2. **Following the Money (Boston Globe, 11/15)**

- (1) By **abjuring** public funds in the primary, Dean and Kerry will be able to spend far more than other Democrats in Iowa. (abjure: to renounce, to reject)
- (2) There is no quick fix for the problem in this campaign. Voters will have to decide whether any of the three is in **thrall** to large donors. (thrall: a servant slave)

Original: Presidential candidates and voters have been well served by partial public financing during the nomination process in the past, and they can be again. But the system that was shown to be rickety in 2000 is now crumbling and needs major repairs.

Paraphrase: Partial public financing has well served Presidential candidates and voters while the Presidential candidates run for the nomination; however, the system revealed its defect in 2000, and now it's not working properly and needs to be fixed.

3. **A Permanent MTA Solution (LA Times, 11/18)**

- (1) Now the trick is to extend the arbitration deal to **head off** future strikes. (head off: to avoid)

(2) MTA Chief Executive Roger Snoble and their labor relations team declared an **impasse**. (impasse: a situation in which it is impossible to continue with a discussion or plan because the people involved cannot agree)

Original: Just before midnight Sunday, the antagonists agreed to send their differences to an arbitrator instead of continuing to take them out on county residents who depend on public transportation to get to jobs, schools and doctors' appointments.

Paraphrase: Just before midnight Sunday, an arbitrator received the differences sent by the antagonists. They gave up keeping strike which causes inconvenience to the county residents who use public transportation for their commuting to the job, school, and doctors' appointments.

4. Four Wise Men (Boston Globe, 11/18)

- (1) . . . warning their **compatriots** that as a result of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's policies, "we are heading downhill toward near-catastrophe." (compatriots: someone who was born in or is a citizen of the same country as someone else)
- (2) the **carping** of unworldly intellectuals or the illusions of **gullible doves**
- carping: complain about something
 - gullible: too ready to believe what other people say
 - dove: someone in politics who prefers peace and discussion to war

Original: In spite of external threats it has had to confront and the bitter factionalism of its domestic politics, Israel retains a quality that any democracy worthy of the name should envy—the self-correcting therapy of truly free speech.

Paraphrase: Although Israel has external threats with which it has to deal and strict internal political factionalism, its quality, the self-correcting therapy of truly free speech, is admired by the nations which consider themselves as a democratic country.

5. The Medicare Choice (NY Times, 11/19)

- (1) Our own chief **qualm** is that the country, with deficits looming as far as prognosticators can see, cannot afford a program that will cost, at a minimum, \$400

billion over 10 years. (qualm: a feeling of uneasiness about a point especially of conscience or propriety)

- (2) A far more likely problem is that this new drug benefit will **exacerbate** long-term deficits. (exacerbate: to make more violent, bitter, or severe)

Original: Though it could add to long-term deficits, especially in combination with President Bush's tax cuts, the Medicare prescription drug bill has our support.

Paraphrase: The Medicare prescription drug bill could increase our long-term deficits especially if it is enacted with Bush's tax reduction policy, but we still support the bill.

6. Just What Is Marriage Anyway? (LA Times, 11/19)

- (1) Reserving marriage to a man and a woman has never been **premised** on mean-spirited exclusion. (premise: to set forth beforehand as an introduction or a postulate)

- (2) As a legal matter, Congress has anticipated the Massachusetts **aberration**. (aberration: the fact or an instance of being aberrant especially from a moral standard or normal state)

Original: The high court of Massachusetts has declared that gays have a right to marry under that state's constitution. In doing so, Massachusetts has placed itself at odds with the vast majority of states, which reserve marriage to a husband and a wife.

Paraphrase: The ruling that the state's constitution allows gay couple to get married has been declared by the high court of Massachusetts. By following this ruling, Massachusetts squeezes the majority of states, reserving marriage to a hetero-sexual couple, into a difficult situation, too.