

Lesson 11
READ THIS STORY #2, Advanced

Candidates For President

Our country needs to have strong and vital candidates run for President of the United States. But it is so hard for them to communicate with us.

We like to hear candidates who give clear and honest responses to questions. But it can be harrowing to be derided for taking an unpopular stand in front of a partisan group.

A candidate for political office may start out being straightforward, but he quickly learns to parry difficult questions with clever responses. That's because a reporter can be as tough as a barracuda if he senses a failing or when he thinks he is on the trail of a scandal.

We get tired of listening to personal attacks. But we don't like to listen to long orations or debates because our attention spans are short. Candidates who talk a long time make us fidget.

We want someone who is confident. But if he appears too confident, we think he's arrogant.

It is as difficult for a candidate to please the electorate as it is for voters to decide who should be the next president.