

Report Card

George W. Bush

SUBJECT	GRADE			
GEOGRAPHY Comments: Unable to identify the locations of different countries.	F			
WORLD HISTORY Comments: Poor understanding of world events — little awareness of the history, people, politics or struggles of different countries. His knowledge of American history also has significant gaps in facts and understanding.	F			
SCIENCE Comments: Unable to participate meaningfully in our unit on environmental pollution – refused to do assigned reading of Nobel Laureates’ position on the environment. Insisted oil spills and environmental toxins aren’t a problem.	D-			
READING/ENGLISH LANGUAGE Comments: Has difficulty reading, responding to comprehension questions and with oral language expression. We’re alarmed by George’s boast that he doesn’t read the newspaper, one of our daily assignments. This might account for his poor understanding of current events.	C			
MATHEMATICS Comments: Math skills are limited. He has shown difficulty with counting — his ability to accurately report figures is seriously flawed. He couldn’t follow our lesson on the proposed prescription drug plan.	D+			
SOCIAL SKILLS/CITIZENSHIP	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Plays well with others/Cooperation: poor interpersonal skills.				✓
Honesty: George’s classmates no longer trust him; has trouble discerning the truth.				✓
Shares belongings with others: doesn’t understand that in a class of 30, he can’t have everything for himself and his friends.				✓
Resolves conflicts using words rather than violence: prone to seeking solutions that involve force and power rather than negotiation.				✓
Understands others’ points of view: tends to see things in black and white – difficulty understanding complexity.				✓
Listens well to others: poor listening skills and limited ability to integrate alternative points of view.				✓
General Comments: We believe a serious error was made in George’s admission and placement in this program. Retention will only magnify the problem.				
CONFERENCE REQUESTED: <u> X </u>				

George Bush: Not the “Education President”

A Real Education President would:

◆ Created “No Child Left Behind” Law—heavy on punishment and short on cash for schools.

◆ Create legislation that would leave no child homeless, hungry, or without healthcare.

◆ Implemented testing programs that will cause thousands of students to be held back. The law also punishes “failing” schools by removing funding and support.

◆ Implement programs that support failing schools and students. Recognizes that holding students back has **not** been shown to increase student achievement and **has** been shown to decrease rates of high school graduation.

◆ Reduced or cut funding for
 -Vocational schools
 -College loans and grants
 -Students with disabilities
 -Drop-out prevention programs
 -Education program for soldiers’ children.

◆ Fund education programs as a national priority. Make sure that all federal mandates are fully funded. Ensure that all children receive equal funding for their education, regardless of their parents’ income or neighborhood.

◆ Increased the privatization of education by asking Congress for more money for private and charter schools.

◆ Support public schools—and provide them with adequate funding—recognizing that public schooling is the foundation of our democracy.

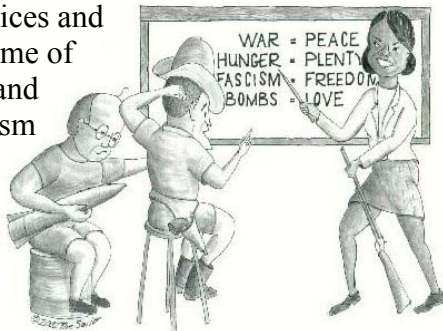
◆ Cut money for early childhood programs denying 2.4 million children reading and math help and 1.3 million access to after school programs.

◆ Fully fund educational programs, recognizing that many students in our nation need additional assistance due to poverty, language issues, etc.

◆ Disbanded the Office of Bilingual Education.

◆ Support Multicultural Education, Bilingual and English as Second Language programs.

◆ Increased educational barriers faced by “non-traditional” families and their children by opposing gay and lesbian rights issues such as child adoption and equal benefits for couples; channeled funds to “faith-based initiatives” in social services and education, some of which teach and fuel antagonism toward gay men and lesbians.



◆ Recognize that families come in many different configurations. Ensure that all families and all children feel welcome, supported and safe in public schools and social service agencies.



DID YOU KNOW?

- * **As of April 8, U.S. taxpayers have spent \$110 billion to invade and occupy Iraq. This money could have paid for 15 million children to attend a year of Head Start. That cost of the war increases by \$130 million per day.**
- * 648 U.S. soldiers have been killed during the invasion and occupation of Iraq (as of April 8). The Bush administration has prevented reporters from photographing flag-draped caskets of soldiers killed in the war.
- * Over 10,000 U.S. soldiers have been injured during the war. Many lost limbs or suffered other severe injuries. The Pentagon undercounts the problem, claiming only 3500 soldiers have been injured (as of April 8).
- * More than 10,000 Iraqi civilians have been killed since the invasion began. No one knows the number of Iraqi military deaths. When asked about this, General Tommy Franks of the US Central Command said, "We don't do body counts."
- * The U.S. has found no weapons of mass destruction—the number one reason cited by George W. Bush for invading Iraq.
- * The U.S. has found no evidence linking Saddam Hussein to Al Qaeda—the number two reason cited by George W. Bush for invading Iraq.
- * Halliburton, a major US corporation linked to Vice-President Dick Cheney, has overcharged U.S. taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars for its work in Iraq (awarded through no-bid contracts).
- * Violence against women and girls has sharply increased in Iraq since the war. Many women and girls live under constant fear of being harassed, beaten, abducted, raped or murdered.
- * Before the war, 92% of people in Iraq's urban areas had access to drinkable water. Now only 60% do.
- * Iraqis face significant health problems because of the U.S. military's use of depleted uranium weaponry. U.S. soldiers are also becoming sick from this toxic radioactive contamination.
- * Taxpayers in New York will pay \$1.5 billion for nuclear weapons in FY2005. Instead, we could hire nearly 20,000 additional elementary school teachers.
- * The proposed \$48 billion increase in U.S. military spending next year is larger than the total military budget of any other nation on Earth.



Sources for figures cited in this brochure are available on the web at www.peacecouncil.net/bmg

What You Can Do

- Think for yourself, question the experts and seek out alternative sources of information.
- Support the Peace Council's Education not Occupation Campaign and other efforts to create peace and justice in our community, nation and world. For information about events call our office or check out our website. Contact information is below.
- Participate in citizen organizations to stand up for your rights.
- Share your ideas with family, friends, co-workers, neighbors. Write letters to the editor. Ask questions in your school, faith community or labor union.
- Attend demonstrations and other organized actions to demand justice, peace and equal opportunity from the government and corporations.
- Refuse to support government policies which are unjust or violent.
- Contact your elected officials about issues that concern you.



If we take democracy for granted, those with money and power may soon take even more of our cherished rights away.

Register to Vote

You must be registered in advance to vote. Registering is simple and easy. Register in person or by mail at the Onondaga County Board of Elections or at community events.

Applications must be postmarked by October 8 (received before October 13) to be eligible for the November 2 Presidential Election. You can register at the Board of Elections before October 8.

If you have moved since the last election, you must file a change of address form by October 13.

For more information, contact the Onondaga County Board of Elections at 315-435-3312.

Voting is Just a Start

democracy—**a:** government by the people **b:** a government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through representatives.

Critical issues are at stake in the upcoming Presidential election. In recent years only about half of those eligible have voted. This makes it easier for those in power to ignore our concerns—for better schools, good jobs, a clean environment, social justice and strong social services.

Voting does not equal democracy. We must also be active citizens between elections.

- Yes, George W. Bush has failed. I want new leadership for our country.
- Enclosed is a contribution of: \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$_____ to support the Syracuse Peace Council's campaign for Education not Occupation.
- Enclosed is \$12 to subscribe to the monthly *Peace Newsletter* so I can get ongoing information.
- I want to contribute my time and talents to these efforts; please contact me.
- Please add me to the SPC announcements email list [email address required]
- Send me _____ copies of this pamphlet. (Cost is \$10/100—including shipping)
This is the first of five educational brochures addressing important issues.

Name _____ Phone # _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____
 Zip _____ Email _____



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