

Irresistible Activities **B1 B2**



A. Before you start

1. Brainstorm about US politics: what do you know about political parties? voters? elections?



Jon Stewart is an American comedian, writer, producer, activist, and television host. Stewart started as a stand-up comedian. He hosted *The Daily Show*, a satirical news programme on the U.S. Comedy Central channel from 1999 to 2015. He was a writer and co-executive producer of the show. After Stewart joined, *The Daily Show* steadily gained popularity and critical acclaim.

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY JON STEWART

STEVE CARELL **IRRESISTIBLE**

SEND IN THE CLOWNS
WORLD PREMIERE IN YOUR HOME
ON DEMAND JUNE 26



The Pitch:

From writer/director Jon Stewart comes the comedy of a Democrat political consultant Gary Zimmer (Steve Carell) who helps a retired Marine colonel (Chris Cooper) run for mayor in a small Wisconsin town in order to win back voters in America's heartland.

2. What can you expect about the tone of the movie?



B. Group work

GROUP 1: THE FEATURETTE - Watch the featurette and fill in the mind map.

<https://youtu.be/vQEkhI3Tw6c>

a. Place

b. The 2 main characters, Gary Zimmer & Faith Brewster

- Job/ occupation

- Relationship



c. The film director

- Name
- Opinion on directing a movie
- Opinion on politics

d. Vision given of Wisconsin on TV News

e. Punchlines on politics

Go further...

Look for Wisconsin on a map and find out about its main economic activities, type of population...

Visit this site

<https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Wisconsin>

How would you define this state?



GROUP 2: THE TRAILER - Watch the trailer and fill in the mind map.

<https://youtu.be/0vhaAoSm1NY>

a. Place

b. The 2 main characters, Gary Zimmer & Faith Brewster

- **Job/ occupation**

- **Relationship**



c. Wisconsin and its inhabitants

- **Defined as a** state.

- **Type of people**

- **Vision given in the News**

d. Politics seen / defined by

- **The consultants**

- **The journalist**

Go further...

Look for the definition of Swing State and how elections work in the US

Use: <https://share.america.gov/swing-states-keep-campaigns-guessing/>



D. Exchange and discuss your findings

Listen to your classmates and write down information. Ask questions if you need details.

Get ready to tell about your findings.



E. Food for thought

“In the spring of 2017, there was a special election in Georgia to fill a vacant congressional seat. It was the first election of the Trump era and became a huge national news story as a young first-time Democratic candidate, Jon Ossoff, emerged as a leading contender in a historically Republican district. By the time of the June runoff between Ossoff and Republican Karen Handel, the race had become the most expensive in House history, with an estimated \$55 million spent, according to the *New York Times*.” Jon Stewart

a. What does this movie suggest about politics in the U.S.?

b. What may it imply about the 2020 presidential campaign and election?

**c. Why do you think this movie is available on demand and not only in cinemas?
What may the impact on the population/ audience be?**

d. Can a movie be an eye-opener and make people change their minds about politics?

Politicians refers to the people.

Politics refers to the activities a politician has.

Policy: the plan politicians have for action on a specific subject (education policy, hospitals policy, defence policy...)

F. Your turn



a. As a movie fan, you post a video on Youtube because you'd like to see this movie after watching the trailer and featurette. Explain your reasons and expectations.



b. As a local politician, you react to the film after watching the trailer and featurette. Post a Tweet to voice your opinion (you can be shocked, amused, revolted...)