

Creator:	Nicole Kettlehake
Unit:	Presidency
Lesson Title:	<b>Presidential Inaugurations</b>
Grade Level:	11 <sup>th</sup> grade (AP government)
Description:	Students are beginning their research assignments on a particular president— they will be using the Library of Congress website to find the inaugural address of their president. They will use these to identify “accomplishments” that their particular president made while in office.
Standards:	(new Ohio standards) <b>Topic:</b> <u>Structure and Functions of the Federal Government</u> <i>Three branches compose the basic structure of the federal government. Public Policy is created through the making of laws, the execution of the laws, and the adjudication of disputes under the laws.</i>
Duration:	One class period plus outside of class time

**Materials and Resources:**

Students will use the Library of Congress website to view primary source materials.

<http://www.loc.gov/topics/government.php>

**Objectives:**

- Students will be able to determine the successes of a president based on his inauguration speech.

**Instructional Strategies:**

- Prior to this lesson, students will have chosen a president to research for their upcoming project.
- Students will use the Library of Congress website to find the inaugural address from their president. If they are researching a modern president, they may use video materials. If they are researching an earlier president, they will need to look at the transcripts.
- After they have found their president’s address, they will complete the attached form—this document will encourage students to first note the accomplishments that a president sets out to do, and then determine if they succeeded in meeting their own expectations throughout their presidency.

**Summary:**

Unfortunately due to snow days, this lesson plan and project will not be completed until next week. However, I used a similar lesson last year in class, and it was received well by the students. A couple of changes that I made to the lesson from last year:

- Allowing students to use video—last year I required students to only use transcripts of the speeches. However, with their love of technology, this year I decided to use videos as well (we have already chosen presidents, and most of them chose modern day presidents—FDR to the present).
- I also tweaked a few of the questions for students to answer—the analysis section was in as clear as it could have been.





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**Task 3: Analysis**

1. If your presidents' plans were executed, use this space to analyze the plans—were they helpful or hurtful to the country as a whole? Why? Did they benefit the greatest number of people? Etc.
2. If your presidents' plans were NOT executed, use this space to describe the “distractions” that you think your president faced during his term. What other plans were put in place of those above? Why? (Take into account major events during the presidency)
3. If one plan WAS executed, and one plan was NOT executed, use this space to answer both questions above.