

Name: _____



Giving the President a Progress Report

The President of the United States is elected by the people and is held accountable to the people. As part of your civic duty, you have a responsibility to keep an eye on the President and his leadership. Just as your teacher keeps an eye on your progress and writes reports (in your case these are report cards) you can track the work of the president's successes or challenges, but most importantly you can write your point of view on his actions.

The National Constitution Center publishes news stories from around the country each day on its website at: constitutioncenter.org/newswire. Using these news stories, you can track the actions of the President, use the form below as a log to assess his progress. *How is President Obama doing as he settles in to the White House and begins his tenure as President?*

Directions: Choose one article posted on the Constitution's Newswire and complete the "progress report" below.

President Obama's Progress Report		
News Story Headline:		
Date of Article:		
Summary of news article:		
Assessment of Action (give President Obama's action a grade):		
Excellent	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement
Comments (use this space to explain the grade you gave President Obama):		
How To Improve (use this space to propose how President Obama can improve his grade):		

Presidential Progress Report

What an exciting time to be teaching! As President Obama begins his presidency, his actions and policies flood the news and people begin to assess how well he is coping with the challenges of being president. Through the media, our students begin to see and hear many different opinions about legislation, policies, and actions of the president. It is important for us as teachers to not only expose them to the news, but also to help guide their own critical thinking process in evaluating the actions of the president.

The National Constitution Center has created a quick and easy student activity sheet (Giving the President a Progress Report) to provide your students with a tool to keep an eye on recent presidential actions, and most importantly consider how they feel about recent presidential steps. Below are suggested activities you can do with your class during and after Obama's First Hundred Days (April 30). All activities encourage students to keep up-to-date of President Obama's administration by reading, watching, and listening to the news.

About National Constitution Center's Newswire:

The National Constitution Center's Newswire is an excellent tool for you and your students to use for this project as well as other general current events projects. The Education Staff at the Constitution Center filter the latest headlines from the national, regional, and local news to provide articles related to our founding document.

Suggested Activities

Timeline: Create a timeline of presidential actions throughout the school year. You can do this as a bulletin board, overhead transparency, or PowerPoint presentation. It's a great anticipatory set for your class!

Legislation Track: keep track of the legislation passed under Obama. At the end of every week, do a quick recap of what happened in the week. You can ask students (1) What conditions or reasons warranted the legislation (2) Summarize the provisions (3) Predict the efficacy of the law. Use the **Constitution Center's Citizen's Help Desk** www.constitutioncenter.org/action which provides up-to-date information on local and federal legislation.

Weekday Update: At the beginning of each week, have students do a new recap of the previous week. The students should have a 15-20 second recap of a story they found interesting.

Mapping the Action: Using a large map of the United States, pinpoint where the President has been and discuss what he's been doing!

Staff Briefing: Divide the class into different executive departments (Education, State, Agriculture, etc). After allowing time to do independent research, have a Presidential briefing, asking each group to report on their department's accomplishments, current projects, and future projects. Have fun and role play the president and have students get into their roles as White House staff.

Benchmark Assessments: Do a poll of your class and gauge the "approval rating" of Pres. Obama. In a few months (perhaps for your midterm or final reports) re-do the Progress Report activity with your students. Reflect back on the first round of actions that the students reported on and ask students to research if their sentiments were correct! Compare and contrast the actions of Pres. Obama at the 2nd benchmark point to the first actions. You may at this point want to do an "approval rating" average of the class again. You can repeat this activity again in a few months.