

Copper Country ISD

Title: The Role of the President and the Use of Media

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School District: Burt Township Schools

Grade Level: High School

Class: U.S. History or Civics

Lesson Overview:

This lesson will detail both the role of the president throughout the 20th century while also looking at the president's use of media to address the nation using primary source radio and video broadcasts. The lesson will look at the effect and effectiveness of the president in using these different media sources as they have become available, giving better access to address the nation to gain popular support for policies and legislation. The lesson begins by looking at what specific roles and duties the Constitution details for the Executive Branch asking students to analyze the language and meaning of Article II of the Constitution. The lesson then shifts asking students to analyze the president's use of media to address the nation starting with the use of radio recordings by Calvin Coolidge and Franklin D. Roosevelt. Students are then asked to analyze video footage of current presidential addresses or debates. They are then asked to analyze how effective the use of radio was verse the use of television and social media. This lesson is an inquiry-based lesson with the ultimate goal of having students evaluate the effectiveness of different media sources, while also gaining an understanding of the role of the executive branch as stipulated by the constitution. Although a few radio recordings and video sources are given, this lesson is adaptable to any presidential address that you find and can apply to your curriculum goals.

Upon the conclusion of this lesson, students will evaluate and share their opinions on the current President's use of Talk Shows to make public appearances and advocate for policy goals.

Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Identify what Executive Powers are given to the President by the Constitution
- Understand how more abundant media resources have changed the presidents ability to connect with the country

- Analyze the effectiveness of different media sources
- Gain an understanding of different issues of importance as address by different presidents throughout the 20th century

Standards:

- Common Core Standards: Reading and Writing Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies
 - **Integration of Knowledge and Ideas**
 - RH.11-12.7. Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, as well as in words) in order to address a question or solve a problem.
 - RH.11-12.8. Evaluate an author's premises, claims, and evidence by corroborating or challenging them with other information.
 - RH.11-12.9. Integrate information from diverse sources, both primary and secondary, into a coherent understanding of an idea or event, noting discrepancies among sources.
 - **Key Ideas and Details**
 - RH.11-12.1. Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to an understanding of the text as a whole.
 - RH.11-12.2. Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary that makes clear the relationships among the key details and ideas.

Time Required: 3 class periods

Recommended Grade Level(s): Upper High School,

Topic(s): The Executive Branch and the Media

Era: 20th and 21st Century

Preparation:

Materials:

(Included below in Appendix I, except PDFs with links given)

- Worksheet: Constitutional Analysis: The Executive Branch
- Worksheet: Sound Recording Analysis Worksheet: PDF worksheet via [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/sound_recording_analysis_worksheet.pdf) at the following link http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/sound_recording_analysis_worksheet.pdf

- Worksheet: Video Recording Analysis Worksheet: PDF available at http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/motion_picture_analysis_worksheet.pdf
- Worksheet: Comparing and Contrasting: Presidential Use of Media
- News Article: <http://www.eaglenews.org/opinion/candidates-and-presidents-can-win-hearts-by-appearing-on-talk-shows-and-similar-programs-1.2744872#.TM3i676Is4>
- Evaluation: Essay Worksheet

Resources:

Resource table is included in appendix II

Procedure:

- 1st class period:
 - Pass out to Students Worksheet #1
 - As a class, read Article II of the Constitution concerning the Executive Branch. Available at <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/ac001/intro6.html>, or use hard copy if available for students.
 - As students read Article II have them complete Worksheet #1 detailing what powers and restrictions are placed on the Executive Branch by the Constitution.
 - Discuss what the implications are of each of these sections and help student's process and digest the information.
- 2nd class period:
 - Pass out Sound Recording Analysis Worksheet http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/sound_recording_analysis_worksheet.pdf
 - Listen to speech given by Calvin Coolidge titled "Duty of Government"
 - Have students fill out worksheet at the conclusion of speech.
 - Discuss worksheet and meaning of speech.
 - Listen to Franklin Roosevelt's Speech, or if pressed for time, move on to, and pass out, Video Analysis Worksheet available at http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/motion_picture_analysis_worksheet.pdf and watch video of FDR signing the Social Security Act.
 - Discuss Social Security along with Worksheet
- 3rd class period:

- Pass out and have students, in pairs, complete Worksheet #2: Compare and Contrast Media Sources (located in Index I).
 - Discuss student's thoughts and responses.
- Have students read, or read as a group projecting to class, the following article: <http://www.eaglenews.org/opinion/candidates-and-presidents-can-win-hearts-by-appearing-on-talk-shows-and-similar-programs-1.2744872#.T-M3i676Is4>
 - Discuss with students their thoughts on the President making regular talk show appearances.
- If time allows, watch a few Talk Show clips via Youtube and discuss the professionalism of using such media outlets.
- Evaluation: Conclude lesson having students answer the essay question titled Evaluation Essay

Extension Activities: Collaborate with English, and or, Speech Teacher and have students thoroughly develop their Presidential Speeches and deliver to the class.

Evaluation:

Students will be evaluated through worksheets and completion of essay question.

Appendix I: Worksheets

Worksheet: #1 ***Analyzing the Executive Branch According the Constitution***

Directions: Answer the following questions regarding the Constitution. Students will either need a hard copy of the constitution, or if computer access is available, they may access the Constitution via <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/ac001/intro6.html> and use page x and xi for the Article concerning the president. The President's is often referred to as the Executive Power in the Constitution.

1. List in your own words, what role, duties and limits the Constitution gives to the President from each of the following Sections of Article II:
 - a. 1.1
 - b. 1.2
 - c. 1.3
 - d. 1.4

 - e. 1.5
 - f. 1.6
 - g. 1.7
 - h. 1.8
 - i. 1.9
 - j. 2.1
 - k. 2.2
 - l. 2.3
 - m. 3.1
 - n. 4.1

Worksheet #2

Compare and Contrast: Presidential Use of Media

Directions: Using the voice recordings and videos watched previously in class; answer the following questions regarding the President's use of media to address the nation.

1. What is effective with the use of the radio?
2. What is ineffective with the radio address?
3. What is effective with the use of video recording?
4. What is ineffective with the use of video recording?
5. Which would you choose to use if you were the President? Why?
6. What other sources of media are available to the President today?
7. What are the advantages of these new sources?
8. What are the disadvantages to these new sources?

Evaluation Essay

Students are to address the following question in complete thought and sentences. They will be graded on their ability to do so, while also being graded on their ability to back up their opinions with information from the previous lessons concerning the executive branch and the media.

Essay Topic: Evaluate and share your opinions on the current President Obama's use of Talk Shows to make public appearances and advocate for policy goals. How does this relate to the powers given to the executive branch in the constitution? How does it help the president achieve his goals?

Extension Activity

(Possible homework, collaborative English assignment, etc.)

Essay: If I Were President...

Directions: Answer the following question.

1. If you were President, what important topics of today would you choose to address to the nation? Why?
2. What source of media would you use to address the nation? Why?
3. Write your speech.

Appendix II

Resource Table

The Role of the President and the Use of Media

Image	Description	Citation	Permanent URL
	The Constitution of the United States of America	U.S Congressional Documents and Debates	http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/ac001/intro6.html
	Voice Recording: Duty of Government. Also available in text form for hearing impaired.	This recording has been reproduced by the Library of Congress through the generosity of the family of Guy Golterman, and with the cooperation of CBS-Sony Records and the Recording Industry Association of America.	http://memory.loc.gov/mbrs/nforum/9000048.wav
	Voice Record: FDR gives a speech titled Americanism regarding the nations role in WWI and the hopeful positive outcomes.	This recording has been reproduced by the Library of Congress through the generosity of the family of Guy Golterman, and with the cooperation of CBS-Sony Records and the Recording Industry Association of America.	http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/nfor:@field%28DOCID+@range%2890000035+90000036%29%29
	Video recording: Franklin Roosevelt signing the Social Security Act.	The American Presidency Project: John Woolley and Gerhard Peters	http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/media/play.php?id=14916&admin=32
No Image Available	PDF worksheet: Motion Picture Analysis	National Archives and Records Administration	http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/motion_picture_analysis_worksheet.pdf
No Image Available	PDF worksheet: Sound Recording Analysis	National Archives and Records Administration	http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets

			/sound_recording_analysis_worksheet.pdf
No Image Available	Current Event news article regarding Presidential use of Talk Shows.	Eagle News: Staff Writer Alex Townsend	http://www.eaglenews.org/opinion/candidates-and-presidents-can-win-hearts-by-appearing-on-talk-shows-and-similar-programs-1.2744872#.TM3i676Is4