



# Government & Politics

(Grades 10-12)

## Following the Issues of Today

<b>Objectives</b>	<p>To study the American political system it is important to see year to year fluctuations of important topics. The topics brought up in the President's annual State of the Union address are usually the basis of that year's and administration's objectives and bill drafting. So students should follow the State of the Union address closely.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students will learn trends in modern politics.</li><li>• Students will use <a href="http://www.twitvid.com">www.twitvid.com</a> to follow the State of the Union and the comments and discussions that people bring up about the content.</li><li>• This will provide a platform for students to converse about the issues in each segment of the State of the Union.</li></ul> <p><b>This activity should take 2 class periods to complete.</b></p>
<b>Materials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The students will need a computer and internet access so they will be taken to the computer lab for the duration of the assignment.</li><li>• <a href="http://www.twitvid.com">www.twitvid.com</a> is the domain that holds the clips of the State of the Union address. <a href="http://www.twitvid.com/index.php?area=search&amp;q=state+of+the+union">http://www.twitvid.com/index.php?area=search&amp;q=state+of+the+union</a></li></ul> 
<b>Procedures</b> 	<p>Students will get into 9 groups of 2-3 people.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. After logging into their computers, the group will visit the above site.</li><li>2. The State of the Union address has conveniently been split into nine segments; each group will be assigned to one of them.</li><li>3. After viewing the video, the group will be asked to place a comment on the bottom of the clip discussing what they thought were the main points of their segments. (Should be about a paragraph long)</li><li>4. After completion, the groups will watch the following segment, so the group that did part 5/9 will watch video 6/9 and so forth.</li><li>5. Now the group will be asked to comment on the previous groups' paragraph and add to or argue their views.</li><li>6. This will continue until each group has viewed all 9 parts (each about 10 minutes long)</li><li>7. After completing all the above steps (most likely will take more than one class period to complete) the group that did the initial paragraph about the video is to write a 3-4 paragraph explanation of their segments and include their views along with incorporating the opinions of other groups.</li><li>8. For this activity, we ask the students to ignore the comments of non-students.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The explanation should answer the following questions, but are not limited to...<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. What was the main point(s) of your segment?</li></ol></li></ul></li></ol>

2. What bills do you think the president will propose to help those issues?

3. What was the bulk of opinions that your classmates wrote?

**Students should know the main points that were covered in that year's State of Union, and what criticisms people have of the president and their plan for the year.**