



## **PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION**

In 2012, we learned about candidates and issues, watched political conventions and debates, and cast votes for President. Now it's time for the Inauguration!

GenerationNation provides a variety of hands-on activities to help students learn while watching, reading about, analyzing and discussing the Inauguration – all in a non-political, non-partisan way.

- Electing a President
- All levels and branches of government
- Roles of citizens and leaders
- Democracy, political process, elections and voting
- Civic participation and leadership
- Current events and public policy issues
- U.S. Constitution
- Media literacy
- Reading and analyzing information
- Writing to communicate information, ideas, facts and opinions
- Communicating a position, listening to others, debating a topic with civility
- And more!

### **ABOUT THE INAUGURATION**

The President is sworn into office at 12:00 Noon on January 20th. This date and time is determined by the United States Constitution Amendment XX, which outlines the terms of presidential office. In 2013, the 20<sup>th</sup> is on a Sunday. So, the public festivities – Inauguration Day - will take place on Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup>.

On Inauguration Day, several events celebrate the peaceful transfer of power between Presidents and when Presidents begin their second terms.



## WHAT HAPPENS ON INAUGURATION DAY

Events change in different years. Here are some of the most common:

- Morning Worship Service
- Procession to the Capitol
- Vice-President's Swearing-In
- President's Swearing-In
- Inaugural Address
- Inaugural Luncheon
- Inaugural Parade
- Inaugural Ball

## SWEARING-IN THE PRESIDENT

While it may sound like a strange activity, the “swearing-in” is when a person officially becomes the President. In being sworn-in, the Oath of Office is recited.

*I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.* —Presidential oath of office, Article II, Section 1, United States Constitution

A Bible is used for the swearing-in. The bibles are often chosen to be symbolic. For example, this year, Barack Obama will be sworn in using 2 bibles: belonging to President Abraham Lincoln and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Supreme Court Chief Justice usually administers the Oath of Office.

### Learn more

Watch Swearing-In videos [www.inaugural.senate.gov/swearing-in/videos](http://www.inaugural.senate.gov/swearing-in/videos)

Article II of U.S. Constitution [http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution\\_transcript.html](http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution_transcript.html)

Locations of Presidential Oaths of Office (1789-2008) <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/pihtml/pioaths.html>



## INAUGURAL ADDRESS

In the Inaugural Address, the President outlines his vision and goals for America. This is an important speech that will be viewed, and analyzed, worldwide now and for years to come.

Many memorable Inaugural Addresses have been delivered in the past including:

- Abraham Lincoln's first Inaugural Address (March 4, 1861)
- Abraham Lincoln's second Inaugural Address (March 4, 1865)
- Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Address (March 4, 1905)
- Franklin D. Roosevelt's first Inaugural Address ( March 4, 1933)
- John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Address (January 20, 1961)
- Ronald Reagan's first Inaugural Address (January 20, 1981)
- Harry S. Truman Inaugural Address (January 20, 1949)

The shortest Inaugural Address was given by George Washington, with 135 words in his second inaugural address. William Henry Harrison, who spoke for two hours, gave the longest. It was a freezing and windy day on March 4, 1841. He caught a cold, which developed into pneumonia. He died soon afterward, only serving as President for 31 days.

### **Texts of Inaugural Addresses (George Washington – Barack Obama )**

<http://www.inaugural.senate.gov/swearing-in/addresses>

### **Videos of Inaugural Addresses**

Harry Truman (1949) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXE-u4WanMI>  
Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SwenOlpbvTA>  
John F. Kennedy (1961) <http://youtu.be/BLmiOEK59n8>  
Lyndon B. Johnson (1965) [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8d\\_24rNoPDU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8d_24rNoPDU)  
Richard Nixon (1969) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zjFZlFXnrNs>  
Jimmy Carter (1977) <http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/Cart>  
Ronald Reagan (1981) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hpPt7xGx4Xo>  
George H. W. Bush (1988) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4S2ptmXsxzs>  
Bill Clinton (1993) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2SWjIPwm954>  
George W. Bush (2001) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rXzgMdj5urs>  
Barack Obama (2009) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VjnygQ02aW4>

### **Learn about the Inauguration**

Joint Committee for the Inauguration, <http://inaugural.senate.gov/index.cfm>



## INAUGURATION ACTIVITIES

### Read and analyze the Oath of Office

Article II, Section 1 of the United States Constitution requires that presidents must take the oath of office before they can assume the official duties of President. The completion of this thirty-five-word oath ends one president's term and begins the next.

*I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.*

Why is the Oath of Office important? What does the Oath of Office mean? If you were in charge of re-writing, and possibly modernizing the Oath of Office, what would you change?

Watch Swearing-In videos [www.inaugural.senate.gov/swearing-in/videos](http://www.inaugural.senate.gov/swearing-in/videos)

### Write your own Inaugural Address

The newly-elected President, or President beginning a second term, provides a vision and direction for the nation. Usually, the speech focuses on “big picture” goals rather than detailed specifics. It is also a good leadership tool that can help to communicate key messages as well as motivate and unify leaders and citizens.

- As a speechwriter, what do you think the President should say in the Inaugural Address? Write a speech!
- Or partner with a speechwriting team in your class to create a new speech using quotes from addresses delivered by prior Presidents.

Read Inauguration speeches, from George Washington to Barack Obama  
<http://www.inaugural.senate.gov/swearing-in/addresses>



## **Watch and analyze the Inaugural Address**

You can watch the Inaugural Address live on Monday, January 21 at 12:00PM. It will be covered on major networks and streamed on the web. C-SPAN is a good resource: [www.cspan.org](http://www.cspan.org).

When it is available after the address, GenerationNation will post the video at [www.GenerationNation.org](http://www.GenerationNation.org).

Make notes and think about what you see – what does the stage look like? Who’s there and what are they doing? Which topics are being covered? Any surprises? What did you learn...anything you will remember forever? Use the scorecard to keep track, and discuss at home or in the classroom.

Download activity: [www.GenerationNation.org/documents/inaugural\\_analysis.pdf](http://www.GenerationNation.org/documents/inaugural_analysis.pdf)

## **Write the headline**

Watch and read about the Inauguration. Pay attention, and answer these questions. Write your answers or share in groups or with your class or with your family.

- If you were reporting on the Inauguration, what would your headline be?
- The next day, read actual headlines. Were you close? Were they right? Why or why not?
- Read headlines from different news sources. What do they say? How are they similar or different? Why?

Download activity: [www.GenerationNation.org/documents/Write\\_headline\\_inaug.pdf](http://www.GenerationNation.org/documents/Write_headline_inaug.pdf)



## Getting the message across

Watch the Inaugural Address. Write your answers or share in groups and discuss with your class or family.

- What is the key message the President is trying to deliver?
- How does he communicate the information?
- Does he read from a piece of paper?
- Does he raise or lower his voice or move his hands to illustrate a specific point?
- Does he show emotions and expressions? How? Why? When?
- Does he look confident? Is he? How can you?
- How is he dressed? What about the First Lady? Does this matter?
- Is the President persuasive? How?
- What do you think is the most effective thing the President does to communicate the information? Least effective?
- If you were the President's advisor, what would you tell him to keep doing? Improve?
- Bonus: watch videos from previous addresses, and rank the Presidents in terms of message and effectiveness.

Download activity: [www.GenerationNation.org/documents/GETTING\\_MSG\\_ACROSS\\_Inaug.pdf](http://www.GenerationNation.org/documents/GETTING_MSG_ACROSS_Inaug.pdf)

## Wish for America/My Community

The Inaugural Address gives the President the opportunity to share his vision for America and outline how he will be a leader and problem-solver over the next 4 years. Do you have an idea for solving a civic problem? How would you make your school, neighborhood, community or country a better place? Make it happen!

Download activity: [http://www.generationnation.org/documents/MyWish\\_andIdeas.pdf](http://www.generationnation.org/documents/MyWish_andIdeas.pdf)

## MLK Day

On January 21, 2013 we celebrate both Inauguration Day and honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King. Here are activities to help you learn more about MLK and make a difference.

Download activity: <http://generationnation.org/index.php/CLC/entry/do-you-have-a-dream-too>



## **Be a citizen journalist**

GenerationNation invites all students to report on schools, government, media, current events and other civic activities through written articles and opinions, social media, photos and video. Make your student voice heard!

Download activity: [www.GenerationNation.org/documents/Be%20a%20citizen%20journalist.pdf](http://www.GenerationNation.org/documents/Be%20a%20citizen%20journalist.pdf)

## **Inauguration Day Activities**

View/download a copy of this document, access multimedia links and find correlates to Common Core and NC social studies standards

[www.generationnation.org/index.php/CLC/entry/inauguration](http://www.generationnation.org/index.php/CLC/entry/inauguration)

# INAUGURAL ADDRESS ANALYSIS

Before the Inaugural Address, make predictions about what you think will be covered. Then, watch and analyze the speech.

	PREDICTION	ANALYSIS
<b>Theme for this President</b>		
<b>Vision for U.S.</b>		
<b>Big ideas/goals</b>		
<b>President's strengths/challenges</b>		
<b>Who is recognized, thanked, etc.</b>		
<b>Quotes from famous leaders (who, what)</b>		
<b>Current events addressed</b>		
<b>Main topics covered</b>  <i>Do you agree that the topics are important? Why/ why not?</i>		



# INAUGURAL ADDRESS ANALYSIS

Before the Inaugural Address, make predictions about what you think will be covered. Then, watch and analyze the speech.

	PREDICTION	ANALYSIS
<b>Effective speech? Why or why not?</b>		
<b>What did you learn?</b>		
<b>What surprised you? What did you hope to see that you didn't?</b>		
<b>What will you remember about this Inauguration?</b>  <b>Other comments, notes and questions</b>		

# WRITE THE HEADLINE



Watch the Inaugural Address. Pay attention, and answer these questions. Write your answers to share in groups or with your class or with your family.

- If you were reporting on the Inauguration, what would your headline be?
- The next day, read actual headlines. Were you close? Were they right? Why or why not?
- Read headlines from different news sources. What do they say? How are they similar or different? Why?

EVENT NAME AND DATE: _____	
<u>MEDIA SOURCE</u>	<u>HEADLINE</u>
My Name:	My headline:
Charlotte Observer <a href="http://www.charlotteobserver.com">http://www.charlotteobserver.com</a>	
CNN <a href="http://www.cnn.com">http://www.cnn.com</a>	
C-SPAN <a href="http://www.c-span.org">http://www.c-span.org</a>	
Fox News <a href="http://www.foxnews.com">http://www.foxnews.com</a>	
BBC <a href="http://www.bbc.com/">http://www.bbc.com/</a>	
NPR <a href="http://www.npr.org/">http://www.npr.org/</a>	
(OTHER NEWS SOURCES)	

## GETTING THE MESSAGE ACROSS



Watch the Inaugural Address. Write your answers to share in groups, or with your class or family. You can also use this activity to watch, and analyze, addresses from prior years.

- What is the key message the President is trying to deliver?
- How does he communicate the information? Does he read from a piece of paper?
- Does he raise or lower his voice or move his hands to illustrate a specific point?
- Does the President show emotions and expressions? How? Why? When?
- Does he look confident? How?
- How is the President dressed? The First Lady? Does this matter?
- Is the President persuasive? How?
- What do you think is the most effective thing he does to communicate the information? Least effective?
- If you were advising the President for his next speech, what would you tell him worked well or needs to be improved?

# GETTING THE MESSAGE ACROSS



<b><u>Date:</u></b>	<b><u>Speech:</u></b>
<b>Speaker Name:</b>	
<b>Key message</b>	
<b>Communication skills</b>	
<b>Confidence</b>	
<b>Appearance</b>	
<b>Do people pay attention</b>	
<b>Is the person persuasive?</b>	
<b>Most effective point</b>	
<b>Least effective point</b>	



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# MY WISH FOR AMERICA/MY COMMUNITY

*Kids, adults, leaders and officials work together  
to solve school, community and national challenges.*

**My name:** .....

**I have a wish for:** *(check one)*

..... **MY SCHOOL**

..... **CHARLOTTE/MY CITY**

..... **MY NEIGHBORHOOD**

..... **AMERICA**

**My big issue is about:** *(circle one)*

ANIMALS

HEALTH

SCHOOLS

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

HOUSING

SIDEWALKS AND STREETS

COLLEGE

JOBS

SPORTS

CRIME

LAWS AND RULES

TECHNOLOGY

ECONOMY

POVERTY

TRANSPORTATION

EDUCATION

RECYCLING

OTHER.....

ENVIRONMENT

SAFETY

**The problem is:** .....

**My wish to make it better or different:** .....

.....

.....

.....

**My wish can be possible if: (solution)** .....

.....

.....

.....



# MY WISH FOR AMERICA/MY COMMUNITY

*(for younger children)*

*Kids, adults, leaders and officials work together  
to solve school, community and national challenges.*

**My name:** .....

**I have a wish for:** *(check one)*

..... **MY SCHOOL**

..... **CHARLOTTE/MY CITY**

..... **MY NEIGHBORHOOD**

..... **AMERICA**

**My big issue is about:** *(circle one)*

ANIMALS

HEALTH

SCHOOLS

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

HOUSING

SIDEWALKS AND STREETS

COLLEGE

JOBS

SPORTS

CRIME

LAWS AND RULES

TECHNOLOGY

ECONOMY

POVERTY

TRANSPORTATION

EDUCATION

RECYCLING

OTHER.....

ENVIRONMENT

SAFETY

**Draw a picture about it here:**



# MY WISH FOR AMERICA/MY COMMUNITY

(for older students)

*Students, adults, leaders and officials work together to solve school, community and national challenges.*

	ME	CASE STUDY OUTLINE HOW A CURRENT/HISTORIC LEADER SOLVED A CIVIC PROBLEM
<p><b>Area of impact?</b></p> <p>Example: School, neighborhood, community, state, country or world</p>		
<p><b>What's the problem?</b></p> <p>Example: Kids don't have a safe place to play</p>		
<p><b>What's your vision?</b></p> <p>Example: Kids need access to playgrounds.</p>		
<p><b>What's your solution?</b></p> <p>Example: Build a playground in my neighborhood</p>		
<p><b>Who to influence? How? What needs to happen?</b></p> <p>Example: The City of Charlotte works with neighborhoods. I will contact my City Council representative to outline the problem and ask for support for my solution.</p> <p>My plan and timeline is...</p>		