Speech • State of the Union Critique • Prompt & Note Sheet

Introduction

CONGRATULATIONS! You've been invited to a party!

WHO: YOU!

WHAT: The State of the Union Address

WHEN: 9 PM (EST) on **Tuesday, January 28, 2014**

WHERE: Washington, D.C. (but you can watch it live from Indiana on ABC, CBS, NBC or PBS)

Instructions

WRITE A CRITIQUE of President Obama's address to Congress. As you watch, consider the following:

- ★ What is the PURPOSE? *(HINT: see Article II, Section 3 of the United States Constitution for a start...)*
- ★ Is there a clear message or distinct THESIS? What is it?
- ★ What memorable techniques does the president use in his INTRODUCTION and CONCLUSION?
- ★ What TYPES OF BODY SUPPORT does the president use to develop/support his main points?
- ★ Is his DELIVERY effective (i.e. use of vocal inflection, rate/articulation, gestures, etc.)? Why or why not?

Additional Info

THIS IS NOT BE A POLITICAL PAPER! You are to critically analyze the address and evaluate it on its merits as an example of public speaking. Students unable to watch the initial broadcast will need to find the video from an online source.

This is a brief assignment and should be typed, double-spaced, with an MLA header and roughly 2 pages in length. Use the space below to take notes as you watch. You may use the back if necessary. A printout of the Turnitin submission report of your paper ***(along with this note sheet)*** is due at the beginning of class on **Monday, February 3, 2014.**

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