

Lesson Plan: Presidential Transitions

Objective: Students will identify events that transpire during presidential transitions and predict events that may occur within the White House during President-Elect Barack Obama's administration.

Time Frame:

For traditional 45-minute classes:

- 1 class period

For 90-minute block classes:

- ½ class period

Materials:

1. Computer with internet access
2. LCD projector and screen
3. A copy of the U.S. Constitution for each student
4. Students' completed [Connections Between Presidents graphic organizer](#)

Procedure:

1. Have students find and discuss the section in the Constitution that addresses presidential transitions.
2. Play and discuss the following clips featured on C-SPAN's White House Week website:
 - ["Truman's Farewell Speech"](#)
 - ["Richard Nixon's Resignation"](#)
3. Have students discuss the information they recorded on their [Connections Between Presidents graphic organizer](#).
4. Make a list of how presidential transitions were covered in C-SPAN's documentary and explain what occurs during a presidential transition period.
5. Discuss the current presidential transition underway and any information students already know about this transition.
6. Play and discuss the following clip featured on C-SPAN's White House Week website:
 - ["Obama and Bush Meet at the White House"](#)
7. Click [here](#) for updated information about President-Elect Barack Obama's transition.

Closure:

1. As a class, predict events - based upon campaign pledges and current national events - that may occur within the White House during President-Elect Obama's administration.
2. Preview next day's lesson.