

Lesson Plan: The Working White House

Objective: Students will identify some of the people required to keep the White House operating, explain the role of their jobs, and create a job posting listing the qualifications needed for the job they believe is the most important.

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 C-SPAN's White House Week program, *Behind the Scenes: The Working White House* [NOTE: If teachers are unable to record this program, it can be streamed on C-SPAN's Video Library website, <http://www.c-spanvideo.org/>]

Procedure:

1. Based on the information showcased in C-SPAN's documentary, discuss the staff members and specific jobs required to keep the White House operating.
2. Play and discuss the following clips featured on C-SPAN's White House Week website:
 - [“White House Chief Usher Recruitment”](#)
 - [“Work of a White House Electrician”](#)
 - [“The White House on September 11th”](#)
 - [“Working in the White House”](#)
 - [“LBJ and His Staff”](#)
 - [“The Fords and the Nixons.”](#)
3. If time permits, watch C-SPAN's White House Week program, *Behind the Scenes: The Working White House*.

Closure:

1. Ask students to explain (orally or written) which White House job they think is the most important.
2. Have students create a job posting listing the qualifications needed.
3. Preview next day's lesson.