

Teaching American History Project From Peter Rodrigues

Lesson Title: Contrasting Presidents: Hoover versus FDR

Grade: High School

Length of Class Period: One class period (block)

Inquiry:

After analyzing the inaugural speeches, how did Presidential policy change between the Hoover administration and the Franklin Roosevelt administration?

Objectives:

Using the Presidential speeches as a guide, students will identify the changing dynamics of America during the transition from the 1920s to the 1930s.

Materials:

- A copy of Herbert Hoover and Franklin Roosevelt's inaugural speeches (attached.) These can be obtained through the Library of Congress.
- Guided Reading worksheet (attached).

Activities:

- Students need background on the 1920s decade in American History. This lesson can serve as a bridge between the 1920s and 1930s in U.S. History curriculum.

Intro: Provide each student with a copy of Hoover and FDR's inaugural speeches and the Guided Reading worksheet. Introduce the inaugural speeches and go over the directions on the Guided Reading.

Lesson: Students can complete this assignment individually or as groups. Allow students 25-30 minutes to read each of the inaugural speeches. Allow students 20 minutes to answer the questions and compare/contrast the speeches.

Conclusion: Class discussion comparing the two Presidents and how they represent the different issues facing their respective decades (1920s versus 1930s).

Assessment:

Formal: Completion of the Guided Reading.

Informal: Class discussion on the two speeches.

Connecticut Framework Performance Standards:

2.1 – Access and gather information from a variety of primary and secondary sources (maps, charts, graphs, images and print materials).

2.2 – Interpret information from a variety of primary and secondary sources (maps, charts, graphs, images and print materials).

3.1 – Use evidence to identify, analyze and evaluate historical interpretations.

Pivotal Decades: Hoover and FDR

NAME: _____ CLASS: _____

Directions: Between the Presidential era of Herbert Hoover to the election of Franklin Roosevelt (1928-1932), America changed drastically socially and economically. After reading Herbert Hoover and Franklin Roosevelt’s inaugural speeches, complete the chart below and answer the questions in preparation of class discussion.

| Herbert Hoover: Presidential goals stated in speech. | Franklin Roosevelt: Presidential goals stated in speech. |
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Guided Questions:

1. How did Hoover and FDR differ on their views on the role of the President?

2. Identify key differences in the tone and content of each speech. Based on your knowledge of the 1920s and what you read in the speeches, what changed in America that accounts for the drastic differences between the two speeches?
3. What problems does America face when FDR takes office? Provide specific examples.

4. What does Herbert Hoover believe to be his Presidential mandate? What does Franklin Roosevelt believe to be his Presidential mandate?

5. Conclusion: In your opinion, who provides a stronger plan for America's future? Defend your position with references to the speeches.