

6-8  
9-12

## 2017 INAUGURATION



# Analyzing the Inaugural Address

### OBJECTIVE

Students will analyze and evaluate the president's inaugural speech.

### GET READY

Ideally you would spend one class period before the inauguration and one class period after the inauguration.

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR FIRST CLASS PERIOD

- ✓ Have students take the "[Who Said It?](#)" quiz, which provides them with inaugural address quotations and asks them to identify the president who said each one. The answers are: 1. Franklin D. Roosevelt (1933), 2. Abraham Lincoln (1861), 3. John F. Kennedy (1961), 4. Ronald Reagan (1981), 5. George W. Bush (2004), 6. George Washington (1793).
- ✓ Once students have completed the quiz, engage the class in a discussion with the following questions:
  - Which quote is your favorite? Why
  - What was happening in the United States at the time that likely prompted or forced the new president to make that statement?
  - If the new president made a similar statement, would it give you hope? Why or why not?
  - What could Donald Trump say in his Inaugural Address that would give Americans hope?

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SECOND CLASS PERIOD (on or around January 20)

- ✓ Have the students watch an online video of the inaugural speech, either at home or during class. Then have them complete "The Oath Today: Analyzing the Inaugural Speech" on the next page.
- ✓ Have them discuss their reactions as a class:
  - Were there any themes that reminded them of past inaugural addresses?
  - Were there any mentions of historical figures from other eras in history? Why do you think he choose those references?
  - Who do you think the president was speaking to? Do you feel like he left any audiences out?
  - Did any aspects of the inaugural speech surprise you? Why or why not?

### MORE!

- Have students read and analyze an [Inaugural Address of a former American president](#). Have the students complete "The Oath Today: Analyzing the Inaugural Speech" for the speech they read. Have them note any differences or similarities with President Trump's inaugural speech. Discuss their findings as a class.

## The Oath Today: Analyzing the Inaugural Speech

Climate of the Inaugural Address: How would you describe the state of the nation today?

Major themes that you hear in the inaugural address:

Particularly powerful, poignant or memorable quotations:

Stated goals:

Audiences the Address seemed to mention or appeal to specifically:

Historic references:

Do you think this Inaugural Address was effective? Why or why not?