



NAME: _____

CLASSROOM LAW PROJECT

THE STATE OF THE UNION

VOCABULARY

Directions: Frontload (introduce and review) these vocabulary words with your students to facilitate their understanding of the topic and coinciding resources:

1. **State of the Union** (n.) - A yearly address delivered each January by the president of the US to Congress, giving the administration's view of the state of the nation and plans for legislation.
2. **Checks & Balances** (n.) - A self-regulating system, usually an organization or government, which ensures that no authoritative branch receives more power than another.
3. **Ritual** (n.) - A solemn ceremony consisting of a series of actions performed according to a prescribed order.
4. **Designated Survivor** (n.) - (in the US) A member of the cabinet eligible to succeed to the presidency who is instructed to be absent from a gathering attended by the president and other potential successors so as to be able, in case of an attack killing those at the event, to serve as acting president.
5. **Decorum** (n.) - Behavior in keeping with good taste and propriety.

CURRENT EVENT ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

Directions: As you read through news and other resources about TOPIC, consider the following questions:

- What are the Constitutional origins of the State of the Union?
- How does the State of the Union fit into the idea of checks and balances?
- How does the State of the Union help amplify a president's agenda?
- What led to the change in the way the State of the Union is delivered? How do you see the delivery changing in the future?
- Based on this year's State of the Union, what are the President's major goals and priorities?
- In their recent address, how does the President characterize the state of the union? What evidence do they use to support their claims?
- In your opinion, does the current way the State of the Union is delivered align with what the Constitution prescribes?