

**Title:** Obama Speaks to Mixed Responses

**Date:** 11 Sept. 2009

**Grade:** 8-12

**Subject:** U.S.

**URL:** [http://www.newsny.com/videos/obama\\_speaks\\_to\\_mixed\\_responses](http://www.newsny.com/videos/obama_speaks_to_mixed_responses)



**Obama Speaks to Mixed Responses**

1:55  
September 11, 2009

**Teacher Information:** This would be a great video to use as a lead in to discussions or debate over government, healthcare or current events. This video shows the reactions to Obama's speech, which addressed congress, about his proposed health care plan. The speech has elicited mixed reactions. Some media sources say he has done well, but others are unconvinced.

Preparation	<p>Establish the anticipatory set with "bell work" or asking "If you fell and broke your leg today, who would be responsible for providing you with affordable quality health care? Why?" I always have students explain their answer in complete sentence form or otherwise they will give a one word response. This should lead into a constructive classroom discussion on government and healthcare.</p> <p>Continue the discussion with questions like:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Should the government be required to provide you with healthcare?</li> <li>2. Should people have healthcare that cannot afford it?</li> <li>3. Should illegal immigrants be provided health care?</li> <li>4. Should the government provide health care for the elderly on a fixed income?</li> </ol>	5-10 minutes
Preparation	<p>Print two copies of Obama's speech from the following site. Click the print icon at the top of the site and print pages 1-6. Use a highlighter to pick out five or six of the key facts of his speech. <a href="http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2009/09/09/politics/main5299229.shtml">http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2009/09/09/politics/main5299229.shtml</a></p> <p>Explain to the students that President Obama has proposed a health care plan for the United States that has come up against much dispute. People are scared of change and are saying many things (fact and fiction) about what is in the health care plan. Ask students if they have seen some of the coverage on TV over the dispute of his plan. Explain that there has been quite the uproar at town hall meetings and lots of protest.</p> <p>Next tell them that you are going to play a game. You will disperse a copy of Obama's speech to the first person on each side of the room. Tell the class that the two students will be given one to two minutes to read quietly to themselves the key facts that you have highlighted in Obama's speech. You will collect the sheets and have the students whisper in the next person's ear the key facts you have deemed important for them to remember. Have the students at the end tell what they were told.</p> <p>The goal of this activity is for students to see the importance of reading the facts for themselves and then form an opinion, not just accept what you hear or see on TV, internet or from their friend or neighbor.</p>	

**Title: Is Hate on the Rise?**

Watch	As a class, watch the newsy.com story: Obama Speaks to Mixed Responses <a href="http://www.newsy.com/videos/obama_speaks_to_mixed_responses">http://www.newsy.com/videos/obama_speaks_to_mixed_responses</a>	1.57 Minutes
Discussion	Have students discuss together what they think about the video. Do they favor Obama's health care plan? Should there be government mandated healthcare?	5 minutes
Debate	<p>Have the students break into two groups and prepare to debate for or against Obama's healthcare plan. This debate can take as much time as you wish. In order to have an effective debate, students need to be given time to research and fully prepare for the debate.</p> <p>Tell students that they have to prepare for the debate on healthcare issues in much the same way that they would prepare to ask their parents to extend their curfew. They need to have plenty of legitimate reasons to sway their parents in their direction.</p> <p>Below is a link to help you better prepare your students for a debate in case you have never organized a debate before. <a href="http://www.esflow.com/debatelessonplan.html">http://www.esflow.com/debatelessonplan.html</a></p>	Time varies according to the time you want to put into the debate.
Report	Students could write a persuasive paper, for or against, using the facts they discovered while preparing for the debate. The paper should be no less than 400 typed words and should persuade you to either be in favor of or against Obama's health care plan.	Time varies

**Extended Learning Activities - Optional**

- Students are to interview their parents and find out their opinion of Obama's proposed health care plan and why they feel the way they do. They are to report back to the class the following day. When students report back, you could take a poll and see how many parents are in favor of, or against, the health care plan and why they persuaded one way or the other.
- Have students come up with 10 issues in healthcare that they think needs to be improved.
- Have students research a family member or friend that may be without insurance or denied coverage because of an existing health issue. They are to write a 100-200 word essay on their findings.

**Looking for related resources? Check out...****[History of Media | eThemes | eMINTS](#)** (grades 11-12)

These sites explore the history of media outlets such as television, film, magazines, and newspapers. Also covered are political cartoons and advertising. Students can access research portals and primary source documents, including video files. Includes eThemes resources on high school journalism and political cartoons.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001784.shtml>

**[The Whitehouse](#)**

This is the website for the Whitehouse that has a full transcript of the President's speech as well as the full plan for health insurance reform.

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/health\\_care/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/health_care/)

**[First Amendment | eThemes | eMINTS](#)** (grades 4-8)

These sites have lesson plans and activity ideas about the rights protected in the First Amendment. Learn about the freedoms of speech, religion, and press, and the rights to assemble and petition the government. Includes some online quizzes. This would be a great way to enforce the fact that as US citizens we can openly question the plan Obama is trying to pass.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000882.shtml>

**[Debate | eThemes | eMINTS](#)** (grades 4-12)

These sites offer tips and activity ideas for sponsoring classroom debates at various grade levels. Learn how to prepare for a debate and how to improve your presentation skills. Includes transcripts and video clips of presidential debates from 1960-2000. There are links to eThemes Resources on writing.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000980.shtml>