**Rating the Presidents**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

**Expectations:**

* You will evaluate a U.S. President by making a list of the president’s accomplishments and failures and then rate the president using the categories and criteria listed below.
* You must explain why you ranked the president the way you did for each category. Make sure you understand the events that occurred during your President’s term of office, so that you can adequately explain the situations and rank him accordingly. Please see the rubric for evaluative criteria.
* You will then produce a “report card” of their President.
* Students may **NOT** choose the following Presidents: George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, or Barack Obama.
* There are so many other Presidents that want to be chosen.

**Possible Grades (for each Criterion):**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Great | Near Great | Above Average | Average | Below Average | Failure |

**Criteria:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Accomplishments | * domestic affairs * foreign affairs |
| Reaction to New Situations  (willingness to act) | * innovative (creative) * flexible |
| Use of Power | * expands presidential power * action-oriented * use of executive orders |
| General Prestige | * short run – while in office * long run – after office |
| Overall | What ranking, and why, did you give your President? |

* Suggested websites:
  + <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/data.php>
  + <http://www.ipl.org/div/potus/>
  + <http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents>
  + <http://www.potus.com/>

**President:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Overall Grade:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Presidential Report Card – Accomplishments**

**Domestic:**

Find two key bills that the President signed into law while he was in office. Briefly explain each one and the impact it had on domestic policy.

Bill #1:

Bill #2:

Did the President appoint any justices to the United States Supreme Court? If so, did the justices make any popular/unpopular decisions?

Examine the President’s relationship with Congress while he was in office. Were they of the same party? Did it change after his first two years in office or during his second term (if he had one)? Give two examples to support your findings of their relationship.

Example #1:

Example #2

**Grade:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Foreign:**

Describe what was going on in the world while the President was in office (i.e. worldwide recession, civil wars, military conflicts, etc.)

Was the United States involved in any conflict overseas (war)? Briefly explain the conflict below.

Conflict #1:

Did the President sign any major treaties or executive agreements while he was in office? If so, briefly explain at least one below.

**Grade:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Reactions to New Situations**

Choose two situations (conflict, world-wide event, international issue, economic issue, etc.) domestic and/or foreign that occurred while the President was in office. Describe the situation and explain how he reacted to each situation.

Situation #1:

Situation #2:

**Grade:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Use of Power (Getting his way)**

Identify two successful ways in which the President expanded his power. Describe the situation and why you feel he was successful.

Situation #1:

Situation #2:

Find one area in which he was not successful in expanding his power (getting his way). Describe the situation and explain why you feel he was unsuccessful.

How many executive orders did he issue while in office? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Give an example of two of his executive orders:

Executive Order #1:

Executive Order #2:

**Grade:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**General Prestige**

**Short term – While in office**

How many electoral voters did he receive?

First term: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Second term: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How many popular votes did he receive?

First term: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Second term: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Explain why he was successfully elected and/or reelected.

Look up his presidential approval rating. (The Wall Street Journal has an interactive chart for each president.)

What was his highest percentage and why was it so high?

What was his lowest percentage and why was it so low?

**Long term – After Leaving Office**

What did the President so after leaving office?

What is his legacy? Has it changed or stayed the same throughout the years since he has left office?

**Grade:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Overall**

Revisit the information you found about the President and identify three areas in which you felt he was an effective president (Pros) and three areas in which you found him to be an ineffective president (Cons).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Pros** | **Cons** |
| 1.  2.  3. | 1.  2.  3. |

**Overall Grade and Explanation:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**Bonus – EXTRA CREDIT**

Find two pieces of extra material about your President. These could be a famous speech, quote or random piece of trivia.

Extra material #1:

Extra material #2: