**SOTU Poster Board Project  
Applied Government  
Mr. Faulhaber**

**BACKGROUND:** The Framers that drafted our Constitution to include a president in 1787 would have been shocked to watch the modern State of the Union Address (AOTU). Putting aside the idea of television and cars and other modern technology or the fact women were in attendance as lawmakers, their collective surprise would have begun by the president appearing in person before a joint session of Congress. As we know, the early presidents delivered their remarks via letter which was received with little fanfare and catalogued. The conservative firebrand, Ben Shapiro, believes the modern spectacle more befitting a monarch or dictator as the supposedly co-equal branches sit in attendance to be lectured to and/or told what is expected of them. And speaking of co-equal branches, it was Congress that was expected to be first among equals both being listed first in the Constitution and encompassing so much space with its powers and responsibilities. Therefore, the idea that the agenda for Congress would come from the president instead of Congressional leaders would be anathema to what they envisioned when drafting the longest written constitution in continuous use.

Some founders, however, would be smiling with this evolution as Alexander Hamilton wanted the president to be more akin to a king with many of the same powers and even the same lifetime tenure. The nation’s first vice president and second president, John Adams suggested the following titles: “His Elective Majesty”, “His Mightiness”, and even “His Highness, the President of the United States of America and the Protector of their Liberties” As they deliberated over appropriate designations for the new president. Both envisioned a robust executive led by a vigorous president that is largely where we are with the “modern presidency” in which the chief executive fills the following roles:

* *Chief Executive-*the president leads the executive branch of government, which implements the laws that Congress passes. The president also appoints (with Senate confirmation) federal judges and the heads of executive departments and agencies
* Power(s): Executive orders, appointments, pardons, etc.
* *Chief Diplomat*-the president meets with foreign leaders, appoints ambassadors, and makes treaties (with Senate approval).
* Power(s): Formal Recognition of sovereignty, Sending and receiving ambassadors, Treaties (subject to Senate confirmation). Executive Agreements, etc
* *Legislative Leader*-the president delivers an annual State of the Union message to Congress, proposes legislation, signs or vetoes laws passed by Congress, and can call Congress into special session when necessary
* Power(s): Veto, Signing Statements, proposing legislation, etc
* *Commander-in-Chief*-the president is responsible for the nation’s security and is in charge of the military
* Power(s): Waging War, etc
* *Party Leader-*the president leads his or her political party, rewarding party supporters with positions in government, and helps to elect other party members by raising money and campaigning for party members
* Power(s): Appointments, etc
* *Economic Planner-*the president appoints economic advisors, meets with business leaders, prepares an annual budget request, and submits economic reports to Congress
* Power(s): annual budget request, economic reports to Congress, direction of money spent, etc
* *Head of State-*the president serves as a ceremonial figure representing the United States
* Power(s): pardoning Turkeys, lighting the Christmas tree, attending funerals, etc

Although the SOTU embodied other roles of the presidency, this assignment will primarily focus on the role of legislative leader. After the SOTU, the president’s cabinet and staff busily try to realize the policy proposals outlined. The president used his bully pulpit to shape public attention and his staff needs to get the specifics and convince Congress to enact the legislation.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Your job is to create a poster board based upon a specific policy proposal for a silent debate that includes the following:

* **Catchy Title/Topic**
* **Background**
* **Specific Proposal**
* **Persuasive Arguments in Support of Proposal**
* **Persuasive Arguments in Opposition to Proposal**
* **Comments Section with Debate Instructions**
* **Citations on the Back of Poster Board**

**SOTU Poster Board Peer Evaluation #1 Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Peer Being Evaluated\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**DIRECTIONS: Read through each category and its criteria***.*  Place a check plus next to those you believe your classmate completed in an exceptional manner, a check plus/check mark if it was only completed well, a check mark next to the criteria in which you completed okay, a check mark/check minus if it was completed okay but not great, a and a check minus that your classmate completed but not very well, and place an X next to the criteria not completed at all.   
 ***\*\*\*Remember, a perfect grade should reflect perfect work and only be used when the work done had no deficiencies & could not have been performed any better***.\*\*\*.

* **CONTENT COVERED/ EFFECTIVENESS**

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Peer created a snappy, attention grabbing title and/or quote that accurately reflects the issue  
\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Peer included background information that got to the heart of the issue; did not lead people responding in any one direction  
\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Peer Addressed a policy, issue, or concept issue in a thoughtful and respectful manner with both(all) sides represented\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Poster Board has a clear arguments and verifiable facts (included citation of where they came from somewhere on Poster Board)

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Poster Board Background was free of distracted spelling, punctuation, or grammatical errors

\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_Poster Board is of adequate length to explain proposal for the layman and was easy to read and understand

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Peer Got material across in a way that informed readers to easily understand the issue and respond intelligently

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Peer Included Debate Instructions for participants and a section to respond to the question posed

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Poster Board Gave the opportunity for participants to share relevant, informed, and intelligent comments

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Poster Board was dynamic with interesting elements to draw attention; not boring, dull, or blah but not distractedly so

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Poster board was neat, did not look thrown together and appropriate for the classroom

**Comments**:

1. List and discuss 2-3 positives of the project

2. List and discuss 2-3 critiques of the project or areas of improvement

3. Final Thoughts:

**SOTU Poster Board Peer Evaluation #2 Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Peer Being Evaluated\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**DIRECTIONS: Read through each category and its criteria***.*  Place a check plus next to those you believe your classmate completed in an exceptional manner, a check plus/check mark if it was only completed well, a check mark next to the criteria in which you completed okay, a check mark/check minus if it was completed okay but not great, a and a check minus that your classmate completed but not very well, and place an X next to the criteria not completed at all.   
 ***\*\*\*Remember, a perfect grade should reflect perfect work and only be used when the work done had no deficiencies & could not have been performed any better***.\*\*\*.

* **CONTENT COVERED/ EFFECTIVENESS**

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Peer created a snappy, attention grabbing title and/or quote that accurately reflects the issue  
\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Peer included background information that got to the heart of the issue; did not lead people responding in any one direction  
\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Peer Addressed a policy, issue, or concept issue in a thoughtful and respectful manner with both(all) sides represented\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Poster Board has a clear arguments and verifiable facts (included citation of where they came from somewhere on Poster Board)

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Poster Board Background was free of distracted spelling, punctuation, or grammatical errors

\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_Poster Board is of adequate length to explain proposal for the layman and was easy to read and understand

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Peer Got material across in a way that informed readers to easily understand the issue and respond intelligently

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Peer Included Debate Instructions for participants and a section to respond to the question posed

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Poster Board Gave the opportunity for participants to share relevant, informed, and intelligent comments

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Poster Board was dynamic with interesting elements to draw attention; not boring, dull, or blah but not distractedly so

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Poster board was neat, did not look thrown together and appropriate for the classroom

**Comments**:

1. List and discuss 2-3 positives of the project

2. List and discuss 2-3 critiques of the project or areas of improvement

3. Final Thoughts:

**Self-Evaluation Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**SOTU Poster Board Self-Evaluation Grading Sheet**

**DIRECTIONS: Read through each category and its criteria***. Complete either or both columns to give yourself an accurate grade.*   
  
In the LEFT column: Place a check plus next to those you completed in an exceptional manner, a check plus/check mark if it was only completed well, a check mark next to the criteria in which you completed okay, a check mark/check minus if it was completed okay but not great, a and a check minus that you completed but not very well, and place an X next to the criteria not completed at all.   
  
In the RIGHT column: Place the appropriate grade in the space to the immediate left of EACH criteria required by determining those areas you performed or were lacking and based upon the point value listed. Place a N/A or “not applicable next to any criterion not required for your specific role. Average the points together in place that score in the “your estimate” blank.   
 ***\*\*\*Remember, a perfect grade should reflect perfect work and only be used when the work done had no deficiencies & could not have been performed any better***.\*

* **PREPARATION/TIME INVESTED (1-25):**

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Annotated (Read, Highlighted or underlined, and Commented or Emojied) the Background and Assignment outlining the project

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Completed the required elements of the Project

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Spent necessary time on poster board project to effectively fulfill the project’s requirements

* Properly used class time and did NOT waste ANY class time
* Put in multiple hours outside of class to complete this project and/or the weekend working on the Poster Board Project

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Gathered necessary information for other to be knowledgeable about policy, issue, or concept

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_An attribute and not a parasite on your project; put in an equal amount of work as partners and did not inhibit work  
  
 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/20

* **CONTENT COVERED/ EFFECTIVENESS (1-20):**

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Created a snappy, attention grabbing title and/or quote that accurately reflects the issue  
\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Included background information that got to the heart of the issue; did not lead people responding in any one direction  
\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Addressed a policy, issue, or concept issue in a thoughtful and respectful manner with both(all) sides represented\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Poster Board has a clear arguments and verifiable facts (included citation of where they came from somewhere on Poster Board)

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Background of issue was written with cohesive sentences free of distracted spelling, punctuation, or grammatical errors

\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_Poster Board is of adequate length to explain proposal for the layman and was easy to read and understand

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Poster Board acknowledged tradeoffs, counterclaims, and opposing viewpoints

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Poster Board Included Debate Instructions for participants and a section to respond to the question posed

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Poster Board was dynamic with interesting elements(i.e meme) to draw attention; not boring, dull, or blah but not distractedly so

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Poster board was neat, did not look thrown together and appropriate for the classroom

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Volume of responses showed a keen interest in the policy presented and a dynamic poster board

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Responses Demonstrated material was presented in a way that informed readers to easily understand the issue and respond intelligently   
  
 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/20

* **SILENT DEBATE & ROUNDTABLE PARTICIPATION/PEER EVALUATION/SELF-EVALUATION (1-10):**

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Read, followed directions, and took your time when completing peer/self-evaluation rubrics  
\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Gave complements when appropriate   
\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Feedback included necessary constructive criticism when elements of Poster Board where incomplete, missing, or defective   
\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Did not just use whole numbers; only gave yourself a 10 if your performance was PEFERCT and a model for future classes   
\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Placed the appropriate mark next to EACH category and did not just give yourself 100% in **each** section; used ½ points

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Answered EACH of the reflection questions in minimally 3+ sentences and in as much detail as possible

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/10 **TOTAL\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/50 or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_%**

**REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**   **Answer each question with deep thought and in as much detail as necessary.\_\_\_\_\_\_**   
  
  
QUESTION #1: A classmate or group I’d give a shout-out to for having a dynamic poster board and/or original thought, etc  would be… because…  
  
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QUESTION #2: What classmate(s) left you scratching your head regarding their poster board project? Explain  
  
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QUESTION #3: Explain what you did well on the project. What could you have done differently and would change if you could go back in time?   
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QUESTION #4 Comments that peers wrote about my pasteboard include…I agree/disagree because…  
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QUESTION #5: When your peers complete their reflections, the chances you will be listed in their answers to Questions #1 or 2 will be…because…  
  
  
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QUESTION #6: How would you rate **your overall during for the simulation** (1-10) based upon your preparation, knowledge and understanding of the issue, and performance in regards to your prior projects and your peers? Justify the ranking. Is this grade Reflected by the Rubric? If the overall score determined through the rubric is different from the grade you believe you deserve explain why and the grade you believe is warranted.  
  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
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QUESTION #7: List and describe the most meaningful idea(s), concept(s), and/or principle(s) learned through this project.  
  
  
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