



Facts of the Union

Student Handout

Selections from President Bush's 2007 State of the Union Address

Directions: In your small group, review the following excerpts from President Bush's State of the Union Address. Read them in their entirety, but pay special attention to the statements in boldface. Discuss the following questions:

1. What does the President say to help support or back up the claims he makes?
2. What emotions is President Bush invoking in these statements (look for things like patriotism, caution, flattery, etc.)?
3. What makes you believe his claims, or doubt them?

Gasoline Use Reduction and Foreign Oil

President Bush: We made a lot of progress [in diversifying America's energy supply], thanks to good policies here in Washington and the strong response of the market. And now even more dramatic advances are within reach. Tonight, I ask Congress to join me in pursuing a great goal. **Let us build on the work we've done and reduce gasoline usage in the United States by 20 percent in the next 10 years.** (Applause.) **When we do that we will have cut our total imports by the equivalent of three-quarters of all the oil we now import from the Middle East.**

President Bush: Extending hope and opportunity depends on a stable supply of energy that keeps America's economy running and America's environment clean. **For too long our nation has been dependent on foreign oil. And this dependence leaves us more vulnerable to hostile regimes, and to terrorists** -- who could cause huge disruptions of oil shipments, and raise the price of oil, and do great harm to our economy.

Federal Deficit and Fiscal Discipline

President Bush: Next week, I'll deliver a full report on the state of our economy. Tonight, I want to discuss three economic reforms that deserve to be priorities for this Congress. First, we must balance the federal budget. (Applause.) We can do so without raising

taxes. (Applause.) **What we need to do is impose spending discipline in Washington, D.C. We set a goal of cutting the deficit in half by 2009, and met that goal three years ahead of schedule.** (Applause.) Now let us take the next step. In the coming weeks, I will submit a budget that eliminates the federal deficit within the next five years. (Applause.) I ask you to make the same commitment. Together, we can restrain the spending appetite of the federal government, and we can balance the federal budget. (Applause.)

Education

President Bush: Spreading opportunity and hope in America also requires public schools that give children the knowledge and character they need in life. Five years ago, we rose above partisan differences to pass the No Child Left Behind Act, preserving local control, raising standards, and holding those schools accountable for results. And because we acted, **students are performing better in reading and math, and minority students are closing the achievement gap.**

Now the task is to build on the success, without watering down standards, without taking control from local communities, and without backsliding and calling it reform. We can lift student achievement even higher by giving local leaders flexibility to turn around failing schools, and by giving families with children stuck in failing schools the right to choose someplace better. (Applause.) We must increase funds for students who struggle -- and make sure these children get the special help they need. (Applause.) And we can make sure our children are prepared for the jobs of the future and our country is more competitive by strengthening math and science skills. **The No Child Left Behind Act has worked for America's children** -- and I ask Congress to reauthorize this good law.

The Economy and Job Gain

President Bush: A future of hope and opportunity begins with a growing economy -- and that is what we have. **We're now in the 41st month of uninterrupted job growth, in a recovery that has created 7.2 million new jobs -- so far. Unemployment is low, inflation is low, and wages are rising.** This economy is on the move, and our job is to keep it that way, not with more government, but with more enterprise. (Applause.)