Fitzgerald

**State of the Union Address - Introduction and Assignment**

**Passage from Constitution requiring that the president give the address –**

* “He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient” (II.3).

**U.S. Constitution available online at The National Archives –**

* <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution-transcript#toc-section-3--2>

**Video of President Obama’s Last State of the Union Address in 2016 to watch -**

(There was no State of the Union Address in 2017 as President had just been inaugurated and had not yet been running the country.)

* <https://www.c-span.org/video/?402620-1/2016-state-union-address>

**Things to note while you watch – (You will see these same things tonight.)**

* Speaker of the House and President of the Senate (The Vice President) are on the podium.
* The Speech is given in the House, as the senate would be too small (only needing room for 100, to house all the people present.
* The Speaker of the house invites the President in.
* The president’s name is announced for the Congressional Record.
* The President greets members of the government as he proceeds to the podium.
* First people – members of the House and Senate.
* The President Pro Tem of the Senate is walking behind the President.
* Notice the people in black robes. They are Justices of the Supreme Court.
* Notice the men in uniform. They are the members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the leaders of each of the five branches of the military.
* Also present are member of the President’s cabinet (his advisors), the secretaries of the different parts of the executive branch.
* In the gallery (balcony), notice the first lady and the guests of the President sitting with her.
* The President will hand the Speaker and the President of the Senate a leather folder with a copy of his speech in it and then begin his speech.
* The speech will rock back and forth between telling how things are going in the nation concerning a particular topic and suggesting things Congress can do to move the nation forward in that area.

**Homework Assignment** – Watch the first ½ hour of the State of the Union Address. It is on at 9:00 pm on many, many channels (CBS, NBC, ABC, PBS, C-Span, CNN, MSNBC. It is also on the radio on NPR FM 101.9 and 91.7)

* Note those things mentioned above.
* Watch until the president has presented information on and suggestion for at least three topics.
* Again this will not take longer than half an hour.