

Presidential Perspectives Answer Key

Responses should show:

- **Evidence-based reasoning** connected to the chosen historical issue
- An understanding of **both perspectives** of the debate
- A clear **final claim** supported by logical arguments
- Historical accuracy in describing the president's decision and impact

(Teacher should check that the student's reasoning aligns with factual historical context.)

Teacher's Guide

Before the Debate

- Provide a short reading or mini-lesson on each historical event so students have accurate background knowledge.
- Allow students to select or be assigned roles (e.g., advisors, journalists, citizens).

During the Debate

- Encourage respectful listening and rebuttal skills.
- Consider time limits for each argument to keep structure clear.

Differentiation Tips

- Allow bullet points instead of full sentences for emerging writers.
- Partner students to build arguments collaboratively.
- Provide vocabulary supports such as: **legislation, equality, economy, constitution, policy, rights.**

Engagement Ideas

- Create name tags like "Advisor to President Lincoln" or "New Deal Economic Analyst."
- Set up a mock Oval Office area for debate presentations.
- Allow students to incorporate quotes from real speeches.