

My United  
States  
President:

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by


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## Assignment #1: The Parent Page

Hello parents!

In the month of February, our nation celebrates Presidents' Day. We have been focusing a great deal on the Office of the President in the last month in our classes. We will now focus on the many men in history who have held that office.

In class today, your child's President was chosen randomly. Your child has written that President on the front cover of this project packet.

Please take a few moments to look through the project packet. I have listed the goals expected for each task. If a task has this symbol,  that indicates the directions will be explained at school, but the work is expected to be done at home. I have also created a suggested pacing calendar. I hope you find this helpful.

Assignment 1 (reading the letter and packet; student returns to school with this page signed) is due by **Wednesday, February 11**. The due date for Assignments 2-5 is **Wednesday, February 25, 2009**. Once that portion is complete, we will work on Assignment 6 at school. Practicing for their presentations will be a shared responsibility between school and home.







This packet is where the information from the project must be contained. If your student makes a major error and needs additional pages, this packet will be available through the Social Studies link on our class website: [allcansucceed.blogspot.com](http://allcansucceed.blogspot.com).

If you are reading this page, your student is successfully completing the first part of the project: parent partnership. Please read through the packet to get a good idea of what the project entails. Please have a conversation with your student about the different sections which were explained in class. If you have any questions that the student cannot answer, please list them on the opposite side of this page. I will be happy to answer them for you.

Please sign below indicating that your student has shown this to you and you are aware of the requirements.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Project Scoring Rubric

- ➔  Target 1: With the use of technology, I can create an accurate timeline of the major events in the life of my assigned President.
- ➔  Target 2: I can pick out important information from various sources on my President, and I can tell where I got my information.
- ➔  Target 3: I can use the information I have gathered to create a multi-paragraph essay about my President.
- ➔  Target 4: I can find or create an image or likeness of my President.
- ➔  Target 5: I can create a slideshow presentation that relays information that I found about my President.
- ➔  Target 6: I can successfully give an oral presentation of the information about my President.

Bullseyes and grades:

**Social Studies Grade:** Targets 1, 3, 4, and 6 will be used as part of the social studies grade. 40 points total possible

**Written Communication Grade:** Targets 2, 3, 5, and 6 will be used as part of the written communication grade. 40 points total possible

**SCALE:**

**Bullseye:** Full ten points earned for target!

**On target:** 7-9 points earned for target.

**Missed target:** 0-6 points earned. Student did not show fourth grade mastery for this target.

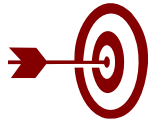
## Suggested Pacing

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8 <b>FEBRUARY</b>	9 Project is assigned and discussed at school. Packet goes home for parent review.	10 President materials distributed at school.	11 Page 2 needs to be signed by this date.	12 No school Lincoln's birthday	13 Valentine's Party  Class time will be given for packet on this day	14 Students work on packets at home
15 Students work on packets at home	16 Students work on packets at home; lab time for timelines this week	17 Students work on packets at home	18 Class time will be given for packet on this day	19 Students work on packets at home	20 Students work on packets at home	21 Students work on packets at home
22 Students work on packets at home	23 Class time will be given for packet on this day	24 Students finish packets at home	25 Assignments 2, 3, 4, and 5 due on this date	26 Finished students take a well-earned little break!	27	28
1 <b>MARCH</b>	2 No school Pulaski Day	3 Students will work on Power Points this week	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 All Power Points should be complete	12 Students practice presentations at school and home	13 Students practice presentations at school and home	14 Students practice presentations at home
15 Students practice presentations at home	16 Presentation Day 1	17 Presentation Day 2	18 Presentation Day 3	19 All presentations will be given by this date.	20 End of quarter 3; early dismissal	21 Spring break!!

## Assignment #2: Timeline

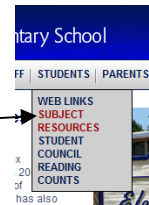
### State Goal 16: History

In the late elementary years, students in Illinois are expected to be able to create timelines for various parts of history.



**Target: With the use of technology, I can create an accurate timeline of the major events in the life of my assigned President.**

On the Irving Elementary School website ([www.district87.org/Irving](http://www.district87.org/Irving)), hover your mouse over the <Students> menu. Hover down until <Subject Resources> turns red. Click on that link.



Social Studies

[Social Studies Alive!](#)  
[50 States.com](#)  
[Color Landform Atlas of the United States](#)  
[American Memory Map Collections](#)  
[National Geographic | Geography Action](#)  
[Ben's Guide to U.S. Government](#)  
[White House for Kids](#)  
[Library of Congress | For Kds](#)  
[vectorkids | State Capitals](#)  
[Federal Bureau of Investigation | Kid's Place](#)  
[USA Kid's Corner](#)  
[Presidents](#)  
[TimeLine Tool](#)  
[Interactive Timeline | ReadWriteThink](#)

You will then come to a page that has links for different subject areas. Find <Social Studies>. Find <Interactive Timeline>. Click on that link.

At this point, you will need some information for your timeline. On the first page, you must title your timeline. You will be using the date as the unit of measure. Make sure everything has been spelled correctly, especially the name of your President.

Interactive Timeline Next Entry ▶

**Project Labels**  
Add project labels in the spaces provided. Click the "Next Entry" button to begin working on your timeline.

Title:

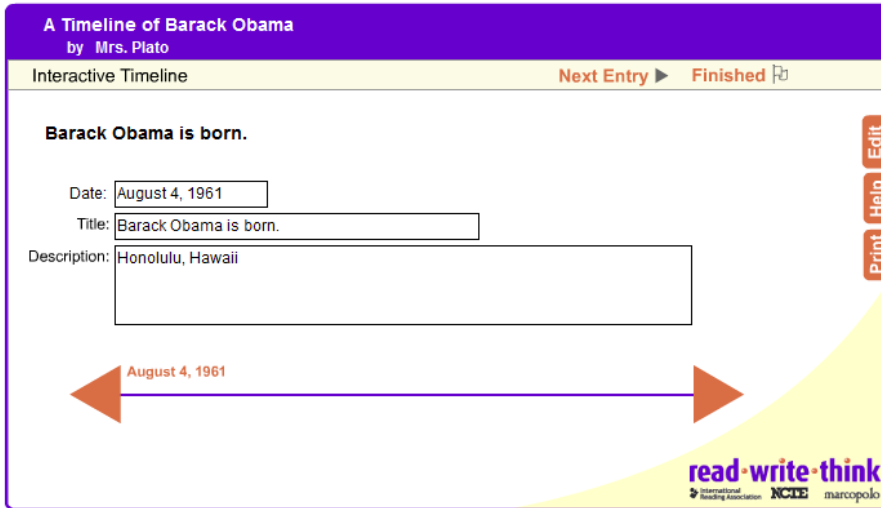
By:

Unit of Measure:  ▼

Print | Help | Edit

**read-write-think**  
International Reading Association NCEE marcopolo

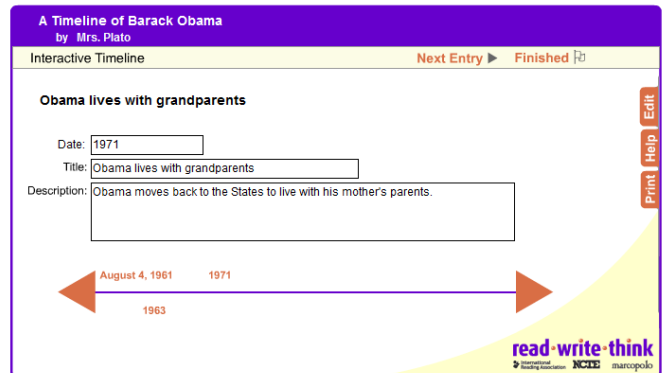
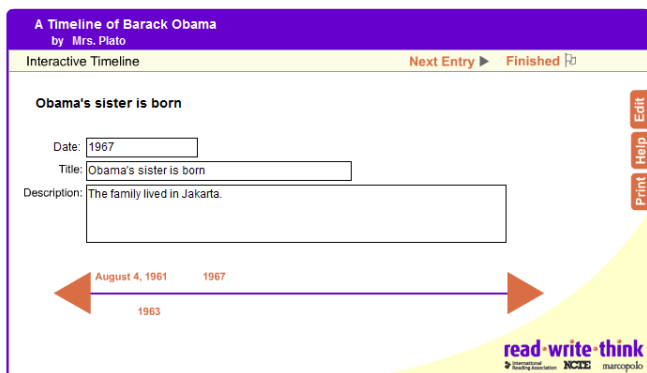
Then click on <Next Entry>.



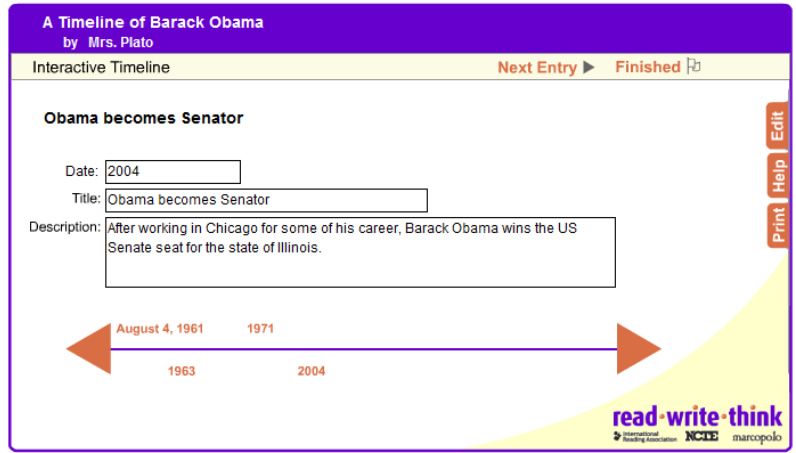
Your timeline should start with the date that the President was born. You must at least type something in the <Date> and <Title> areas. If you wish to place more information about this event in the <Description>,

you may. That is extra information that is not required for this project. When you have completed the birthday of your President, you may click on <Next Entry>.

The next entry should include a date when something occurred in your President's early years. You might want to include more than one entry for this, but only one entry is required. Here, I have included three entries.



Your next entry should include an important job the President had before he became President.



You should then include the year that your President began his presidency. That should be followed by the year he ended his presidency. Because my President is still in office, I do not have an ending date.

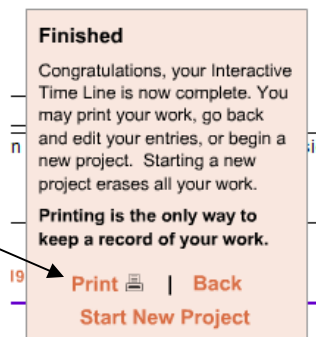


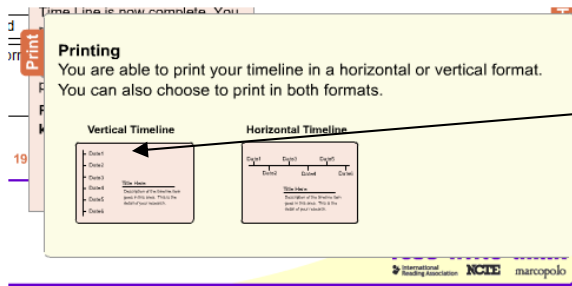
If your President has passed away, your last entry should be the date of his death. If he is still alive, your last entry should be about what he has done since being President.

When you feel you are finished with your timeline, click on <Finished>.

If you are successful, this screen will appear.

You should then hit <Print>.





You will then see this screen. Please choose <Vertical Timeline> for this project.

Once your timeline prints, neatly cut out the part of the sheet that you need and tape it into this packet on the timeline page.

**A Timeline of Barack Obama**  
by Mrs. Plato

Vertical Time Line

Printed on February 8, 2009

Date Details

August 4, 1961	August 4, 1961 Barack Obama is born.: Honolulu, Hawaii
1963	1963 Obama's parents separate: His father went to Harvard and then moved back to Kenya.
1971	1971 Obama lives with grandparents: Obama moves back to the States to live with his mother's parents.
2004	2004 Obama becomes Senator: After working in Chicago for some of his career, Barack Obama wins the US Senate seat for the state of Illinois.
2009	2009 Obama is inaugurated: Barack Obama is sworn in as the first African American President in US history.

Here's a quick summary of steps:

1. Gather facts and dates about your President.
2. Go to school website for timeline link.
3. First entry: date of birth; double-check spelling
4. Next entry: important event in early years (can have more than one); double-check spelling
5. Next entry: important position before becoming President; double-check spelling
6. Next entry: Presidential inauguration year; double-check spelling
7. Next entry: last year of presidency; double-check spelling
8. Last entry:
  - Date of death, if your President passed away; double-check spelling
  - What he's done after presidency, if your President is still alive; double-check spelling
9. Print.
10. Carefully cut needed info and tape onto next page.

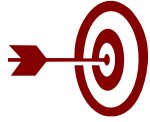
# Timeline

Tape timeline in this space

## Assignment #3: Gathering Information

### State Goal 5: Research

In the late elementary years, students in Illinois are expected to be able to gather information from a variety of sources and cite the sources they used.



**Target: I can pick out important information from various sources on my President, and I can tell where I got my information.**

At school, you will get some print material from the media center in the form of books. You will also be provided one copy of an Internet site with information on your President. Your job at home is to find information about your President and write your notes below.



**Trust me when I say, the statement, "I couldn't find anything," is completely unacceptable as well as untrue.** Some of this information will be a repeat from your timeline.

1. Date of birth: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

2. Mother's name: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Father's name: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Siblings:

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5. State born in: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Other states lived in (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

7. Interesting information about his years as a child:

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8. Interesting information about the years before his presidency:

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9. Other jobs he held before becoming President:

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10. First name of wife (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

11. Name(s) of child(ren) (if applicable):

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12. Years he was President: \_\_\_\_\_

13. Political party: \_\_\_\_\_

14. Two important events that took place during his presidency:

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15. What he did after his presidency:

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16. Date of death (if applicable): Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

17. If your President has passed away, what caused his death?

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18. Sources used:

Book(s) title and author: \_\_\_\_\_

Internet site: \_\_\_\_\_

You may add other interesting information you find in the space below. Remember, however, that you are required to have the information in #1-18.

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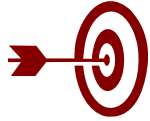
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## Assignment #4: Essay

### State Goal 5: Research

In the late elementary years, students in Illinois are expected to create print material from information they have researched.



**Target: I can use the information I have gathered to create a multi-paragraph essay about my President.**

Looking only at the information you gathered in Assignment 3, create an essay about your President. Your essay may be typed or handwritten. If handwritten, please write your **final copy** on the lines provided. You should not write your first draft in this packet. If typed, please staple a printed copy to this packet. Your essay should include:



- title
- opener (bring the reader in)
- body (what, so, so what?)
- conclusion (wrap it up; **avoid** “The End,” or “This is my essay on \_\_\_\_.”)

The minimum number of paragraphs for your essay is 4. Please have someone else read the essay for you and give you: **COMPLIMENTS, SUGGESTIONS, AND CORRECTIONS**. The essay is expected to be your own words.

**Typists:** Be sure to check over spelling and grammar. Type two spaces after the punctuation at the end of each sentence. Type one space after each word (except the last in a sentence) and comma. Indent each paragraph. **Use Arial font in 12 point size.**

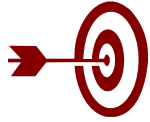
**Handwriters:** Be certain to use your best, most legible writing. You may use print or cursive in pencil, as long as I can read it. **Do not write your essay all in one sitting.** Your hand will get tired and your writing will get sloppy. Allow yourself a couple of days to write the final copy.



## Assignment 5: Portrait of a President

### State Goal 26: Creating

In the late elementary years, students in Illinois are expected to apply knowledge and skills necessary to create in the arts.



**Target: I can find or create an image or likeness of my President.**

Please find a portrait or photo of your President. Tape the portrait or photo or create the drawing in the space below. If you would rather trace or draw your President, that is acceptable. Your image must resemble your President.



Source for portrait or photo: \_\_\_\_\_



**Step 2:** Storyboard your ideas. A storyboard is a map or sketch of your slide show that you make before you open the program. It's a starting point for what you want to do.

Full name and picture  
of President

Slide 1 Sketch

Younger years

Slide 2 Sketch

Family information

Slide 3 Sketch

Information about presidency

Slide 4 Sketch

Other interesting facts

Slide 5 Sketch

Quote attributed to this  
President

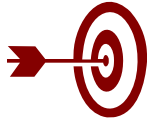
Slide 6 Sketch

This will be modeled for you at school. You will be given time on the Power Point after the written portion of your project is completed.

## Assignment 7: Oral Presentation of My Information

### State Goal 5: Research

In the late elementary years, students in Illinois are expected to prepare and deliver oral presentations based on research.



**Target: I can successfully give an oral presentation of the information about my President.**

At school, students will be given instructions about giving oral presentations of information. They will take this information and practice presenting their information with the use of their Power Point file. It would help them greatly to practice in front of a mirror or an audience (siblings, parents, grandparents, dogs, whoever is up to it).



My oral presentation to the class is scheduled for \_\_\_\_\_.