

## Student Worksheet

### DIRECTIONS

Read the following news story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions. Use additional paper if necessary.

### STORY

#### **Obama Outlines Economic Plan in Address to Congress, 2/25/2009**

[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/us/jan-june09/obama\\_02-25.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/us/jan-june09/obama_02-25.html)

### READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

**1. What priorities did President Obama lay out in his address to Congress?**

**2. What percentage of overall energy consumption in the United States comes from renewable sources?**

**3. How many Americans are currently without health insurance?**

**4. Why does President Obama want to move towards electronic health records?**

**5. What percentage of the U.S. population currently graduates from high school?**

**6. What was President Obama's message to parents in the speech?**

**7. Who delivered the Republican response? What did he say?**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

**1. Do you think President Obama was right to lay out energy, health care and education as his priorities? What was missing? In what order would you put those three issues?**

**2. Do you think the president should focus on one issue at a time? Why or why not?**

**3. What is challenging the president's ability to implement his agenda?**

**4. Watch the speech here:**

[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/video/blog/2009/02/obama\\_gives\\_first\\_address\\_to\\_c.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/video/blog/2009/02/obama_gives_first_address_to_c.html)

**What struck you about the speech? Do you think President Obama will be able to achieve the goals he describes?**

**Extension Activity**

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra (extra@newshour.org). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.