

Student Worksheet

DIRECTIONS

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

STORY

Transition From Bush to Obama Presidency Presents Challenges

11/07/08

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/us/july-dec08/transition_11-07.html

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. When does Barack Obama officially become president?
2. What are some of the major problems Obama faces when he becomes president?
3. Who is President-elect Obama's Chief of Staff and what do Republicans think of the choice?
4. How many jobs does Barack Obama have to fill?
5. What mistake did President Jimmy Carter make, according to Stephen Hess?
6. Why might it be especially hard to switch from a Republican president to a Democratic one?

7. What is the White House Transition Project and what did it warn new administrations to be wary of?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. What concerns do you have about the Bush to Obama transition? Do you think it will be smooth? Why or why not?

2. Would you want to be in the Obama administration? What position would you want? Why?

3. What are your expectations about the Obama presidency?

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.