

Instructions: Work in groups of 2-3 to complete the sections below. Have someone from your group take notes on what you find and post your notes to the discussion board in the section Canvas page at the end of class. The notes do not have to be very polished - I just need to see some record of what you observed and discussed in order to give participation credit for the day. We will aim to share what we learned with the larger group toward the end of section.

I. Obama and Congress

- Navigate to <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu>
- Beneath the field labeled "Simple search of our archives," select "advanced search".
- In the field "All of these Terms," enter "congress*" (be sure to include the asterisk * after the search term).
 - Under "Presidents," select Barack Obama.
 - Under "Document category," select "Interviews"
 - Select "Apply."
- Select one of the interviews. Interviews with national media tend to focus most on federal-level issues, but you can still choose one conducted at the state or local level if you don't have too much difficulty answering the questions below.
- Do **NOT** read the entire interview. Instead, search (ctrl+F in Windows, apple+F in Apple) for mentions of congress in the interview. Read any passages that focus on the president's relationship with Congress and that help you answer the questions below.

Questions to consider:

- Is there anything the president wants Congress to achieve? Any specific bills that the president wants to pass?
- Does the president raise any issues that he has with Congress? Does he comment on any problems that he sees happening within Congress? How does he respond to any issues the interviewer raises? What might be the president's strategy by raising (or not raising) these issues?
- Does the president mention any specific party or legislator within Congress, or does he only talk about Congress as a whole? Is he talking about them as an ally or an obstacle? What might be the advantages or disadvantages of his approach?
- Does the president mention any strategies or tactics used thus far to persuade Congress? Any compromises, concessions, or efforts at persuasion? If so, why might he be discussing it in the interview?
- Does the president provide any alternative courses of action if Congress fails to achieve the desired action? Any continued negotiation or use of unilateral action?

II. Trump and Congress

- Conduct the same search as before, but under "Presidents" select Donald Trump.
- Select an interview and focus on passages where Trump discusses Congress.
- Consider the same questions as before, but now compare this interview with Obama's interview. Does Trump observe similar issues with Congress as Obama? Does he appear to have a different strategy in dealing with Congress than Obama? Why might this be the case? Does one approach seem more effective than the other?