AP & US Government: Assessing the State of the Union

**While listening to the SOTU, answer the following on a separate sheet.**

**Content:**

1. What historical events were mentioned?
2. What were the major topics (put a star by those that the President spends the most time addressing)?
3. What were two or more specific points the President made that you agree with?
4. What were two or more specific points the President made that you disagree with?
5. What did he discuss that you didn’t anticipate? What did he omit that you thought he’d include? Generally, did anything surprise you in terms of substance?
6. What was the overall message or main ideas of the SOTU?

**Checks & Balances:**

1. What did the President mention that is within the scope of his office? How will he achieve it?
2. What did he mention that he’ll need congressional, judicial, or state-level support for?

**Linguistics:**

1. What was the President’s tone? (hopeful, pessimistic, concerned, proud, something else? You may list multiple.)
2. What words were repeated often?
3. Listen for anaphora. List examples.

Make note of significant and strong examples of the following:

1. Ethos:
2. Pathos:
3. Logos:

**Partisanship:**

1. What moments indicated a strongly polarized government under President Trump? Provide multiple examples.

**Fact Check: Use the cites provided, or any other fact checking cites that from universities or the green box on the media chart, to assess the following.**

Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania: <https://www.factcheck.org/2020/02/factchecking-the-state-of-the-union-3/>

NBC News: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/state-union-fact-check-what-s-true-what-s-false-n1130311>

NPR: <https://www.npr.org/2020/02/04/800983688/fact-check-president-trump-delivers-his-3rd-state-of-the-union-address>

1. What were some truths that President Trump mentioned?
2. What were some fallacies that President Trump mentioned?
3. What statements were grounded, but perhaps skewed?
4. What percentage would you give for accuracy? (For example, was the speech 75% accurate, 90% accurate? Make an informed decision based on the data.)
5. Do you think Americans expect the SOTU to be completely accurate, or do most Americans know the President might include incorrect information?