State of the Union, Preparatory Assignment

“History, Evolution, and Practices of the President’s State of the Union Address: Frequently Asked Questions,” Congressional Research Service (Jan. 2020). <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R44770.pdf>

1. What section of the Constitution is the formal basis for the State of the Union?
2. What’s the purpose of the address?
3. Have presidents always given a formal address to Congress? Explain with examples.
4. Who had the shortest message? Who had the longest?
5. Who gave the most?
6. What are the origins of the opposition response?

**A Case Study: The** **2018 & 2019 State of the Union addresses**

Full text (2019): <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-state-union-address-2/>

Full test (2018): <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trumps-state-union-address/>

**Fact checking:**

President Trump’s 2019 plans (fulfilled or unfulfilled?):

<https://www.npr.org/2020/01/30/799394128/fact-check-where-trumps-2019-state-of-the-union-promises-stand#cancer>

Accuracy of information presented in 2019 address:

<https://www.factcheck.org/2019/02/factchecking-the-state-of-the-union-2/> (Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania)

Accuracy of information presented in 2018 address:

<https://www.factcheck.org/2018/01/factchecking-trumps-state-union/>

1. What were some of President Trump’s main points in 2019? Were they similar to points made in 2018?
2. What were some things he accomplished since the 2019 address?
3. What were some things he did not accomplish since the 2019 address?
4. What were some things he may have not portrayed accurately in 2019? How does this compare to his 2018 address?

**State of the Union 2020 Predictions**

Based on your knowledge of current events, and also past speeches, what do you predict President Trump will include in the State of the Union?

If you were one of his advisors, what issues would you suggest he consider including (in order by priority, in your opinion)?