**SOTU Extra Credit Viewing Guide**

Directions: Save a copy of this file and put your name in the title. Email it to me once you finish at [mmcmurray@oprfhs.org](mailto:mmcmurray@oprfhs.org). Do the anticipation section below. Watch the State of the Union Address (SOTU) tonight @ 8pm on any major network and complete the following.

**Anticipation**: On the left, list at least 7 issues you think the president will touch on in his speech. Use your knowledge of current events to devise relevant issues. Then, on the right side, as you watch the speech confirm whether or not he touched on the issues you predicted. Lastly, at the bottom, list as many issues as you can that he discussed that you didn’t predict.

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| --- | --- |
| Five issues I think the President will address tonight are… | Was I right or wrong? Highlight one. |
| 1. | Yes No |
| 2. | Yes No |
| 3. | Yes No |
| 4. | Yes No |
| 5. | Yes No |
| 6. | Yes No |
| 7. | Yes No |
| Here are some issues the president discussed that I didn’t predict: | |

8. Typically, presidents will invite an everyday American to the SOTU and use their story to make a grandiose political point. Who was the President’s “special guest” and what issue was raised in telling their story? (Give me details, name, state, gender, career, etc.)

9. The SOTU is given to all branches of government, meaning all 535 congress persons and the 9 justices of the Supreme Court. During the speech, watch the reactions of the gallery and those seated behind the president (VP-Joe Biden, D and Speaker Paul Ryan, R). What do you notice? Explain.

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10. What do you think was Obama’s **strongest** moment in the speech? Why?

11. What do you think was Obama’s **weakest** moment in the speech? Why?

12. Based on the speech, what I the “state of the union?” Describe how the country is doing based on a holistic assessment of the speech.

13. Overall, do you think the speech was successful? Why or why not.