

Opinion: President Obama's troubling lesson plan for America's youth

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This [address](#) would be the first of its kind, but it is already stirring up controversy among many people. The Department of Education is handing out lesson plans to teachers, that are to be used leading up to Obama's speech and afterwards.

Among the several controversial items in the lesson plan is for children from kindergarten to 6th grade to "write letters to themselves about what they can do to help the president." Teachers are also recommending to students that they should "build background knowledge about the president of the United States by reading books about presidents and Barack Obama."

For those students grade 7 to 12, the students will be given quotes from several of President Obama's speeches and will be asked questions such as "Why does President Obama want to speak with us today?" and "How does he inspire us?" Following the speech, students will be asked "what resonated with you from President Obama's speech?"

Now, this seems to be a highly controversial move. "I don't think it's appropriate for teachers to ask students to help promote the president's preferred school reforms and policies," Frederick Hess, the American Enterprise Institute's Director of Education Policy Studies, said. Neal McCluskey, the associate director for the Cato Institute's Center for Educational Freedom, said "It could be a blatantly political move. Nobody knows for sure, but it gives that impression." McCluskey went on to say that the language in the lesson plans apparently tries to "glorify President Obama," in the eyes of students of all ages.

A presidential address towards students is a good idea, however some of the troubling things in the so called "lesson plan" should not be included. It is a fact that President Obama is a polarizing figure in the United States currently. According to Rasmussen Reports, one of the most [accurate](#) pollsters in America, the President's approval rating currently stands at 46% and some 53% of Americans disapprove of Obama's job performance. Half of the country is not happy with Mr. Obama currently, and many of these people are parents. There will be a good percentage of people who do not want their children exposed to a speech and lesson plan that glorifies the President.

Political views are slowly formed in young people, but the largest influence tends to be the views of the parents. It is not the role of the school system to instill political thought into the minds of young people. That and the fact that teachers tend to be liberal, makes this a startling occurrence. In closing, I can guarantee that liberals will find nothing wrong with what Mr. Obama is doing. Many will post that to this article. I have one question for them to consider. If President Bush or Vice President Cheney wanted to give a speech to students and promote a lesson plan that made them look good, would you be ok with that?

The answer is no. You would be screaming at the tops of your lungs about the right wing bias and attack machine. Well, this case is no different in the minds of many people.



Frank Shepard Fairey

Poster created by Frank Shepard Fairey during the Obama campaign.

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