

Roosevelt's Fireside Chats

Broadcast #1: On the Banking Crisis,
March 12, 1933

Broadcast #2: On Progress during the
First Two Months, May 7, 1933

1. List the Key Elements of the Bank Holiday.
2. List 2-3 specific examples of how he explains the banking system.
3. List 2-3 examples of how he uses simple imagery to get his point across.
4. Describe your opinion of the overall effectiveness of the speech.

1. List 3 problems that he addresses in the Chat.
2. List 3 programs he proposes in the chat.
3. Which parts of the speech would have been more effective in written form?
4. How effective would this type of communication be in today's politics?

Reactions to the New Deal

Letters to the President

1. List some examples from the letters that demonstrate the power of Roosevelt's use of the radio.
2. Discuss the variety of reactions to the first Fireside Chat.
3. Do you think Roosevelt's message was generally successful?
4. What reservations did people seem to have about Roosevelt's programs?

Political Cartoons

1. What point or opinion does each cartoon express about the content and effectiveness of the new deal programs?
2. What symbols are used by the authors and what are they meant to represent?
3. What issues raised here overlap with issues in the Fireside Chat letters?
4. Comparing the cartoons, do you think Roosevelt's message was generally successful?