

## Presidential Report Cards

**TASK:** Our first fifty years as an independent nation saw eight very different presidents; **George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, and Martin Van Buren.** Based on your understanding of these men and their presidencies, you are responsible for providing a report card for these individuals. Your assignment is to grade the presidents on certain tasks dealing with the formation of our nation.

**DIRECTIONS:** Review each president's contributions using your textbook, past notes, and the "Ultimate Guide to the Presidents" note guide.

- If the president helped grow the nation and create a better society, give them a good grade; if they did not help the cause or society, give them a bad grade.
- You must include "comments and evidence" to explain why they earned their grade. Each president should have AT LEAST one piece of evidence per class to support their grade. Refer to the KEY EVENTS table on the back of this handout to help jog your memory.

On each president's **REPORT CARD**, grade him in the following "classes":

➔ **Leadership:**

Did the nation believe in the president and follow his lead?

➔ **Organization:**

Was this president able to accomplish much while in office? What bills were initiated by the president? What bills were passed? How did the president organize his administration and the nation?

➔ **Professionalism:**

How did the president behave while in office? Did people admire the president? What was the public opinion about the president?

➔ **Contributions:**

What impact did the President have on the United States? For what is the president remembered?

**GRADING  
SCALE:**

A+ or A

B+ or B

C+ or C

D+ or D

F

On the **GRADEBOOK SUMMARY FORM**, record each president's grades.

- ➔ Fill in each president's letter grade into the gradebook.
- ➔ Convert each letter grade into point value using the black box at the bottom of the gradebook.
- ➔ The president with the highest **FINAL GRADE VALUE** is ranked your #1 president. The president who earns the number of points is your #8 presidents.
  - If two presidents have an identical score, you must decide who earns the higher rank.

**A Note from Ms. G to You:**

If you compare ideas with another student, you'll likely find that you assign different grades and apply different evidence. That's ok! As long as you grade based on the class descriptions above AND support your answer with comments and evidence, your grade should be an accurate representation of the president.

# Key Events

President	Their Presidency
<b>George Washington</b>	<u>Textbook</u> : Chapter 7 (p. 234-249) <u>Key Events</u> : Precedents set (oath of office, choosing a cabinet, two terms), Creating a National Bank, Neutrality Proclamation, Whiskey Rebellion, Jay's Treaty, Ratifying the Bill of Rights, warnings in Farewell Address
<b>John Adams</b>	<u>Textbook</u> : Chapter 7 (p. 250-253) <u>Key Events</u> : XYZ Affair, Alien and Sedition Acts; Kentucky Resolutions, Building up the Navy, Federalist "Midnight Judges"
<b>Thomas Jefferson</b>	<u>Textbook</u> : Chapter 8 (p. 266-283) <u>Key Events</u> : War with Tripoli/Barbary Pirates, Cuts government and military spending, Laissez-faire economy, Ends Alien and Sedition Acts, Louisiana Purchase, Lewis & Clark Exploration, Embargo Act of 1807
<b>James Madison</b>	<u>Textbook</u> : Chapter 8 (p. 283-287) <u>Key Events</u> : Non-Intercourse Act, First Bank of the United States closes, War of 1812, Battles with Indians (Horseshoe Bend, Tippecanoe, Thames), Creates Second Bank of the United States
<b>James Monroe</b>	<u>Textbook</u> : Chapter 9 (p. 298-305) <u>Key Events</u> : "Era of Good Feelings," Rush-Bagot Agreement, First Seminole War, McCulloch v. Maryland, Missouri Compromise, Monroe Doctrine
<b>John Quincy Adams</b>	<u>Textbook</u> : Chapter 9/10 (p. 305, 322) <u>Key Events</u> : Corrupt Bargain, Internal improvements (roads, canals, bridges, universities, libraries, etc.) Supported Henry Clay's American System, Proposed the Tariff of 1828 (Tariff of Abominations)
<b>Andrew Jackson</b>	<u>Textbook</u> : Chapter 10 (p. 322-335) <u>Key Events</u> : Tariff of 1828 (Tariff of Abominations) takes effect, Cabinet troubles, States' rights, Indian Removal Act, Petticoat Affair, Vetoes the Second Bank of the United States bill, Nullification Crisis, Texas declares its independence
<b>Martin Van Buren</b>	<u>Textbook</u> : Chapter 10 (p. 335) <u>Key Events</u> : Continued removal of Native Americans, Second Bank of the United States, Panic of 1837