U.S. Government Name:

Mrs. Barnes

Presidential Roles

While watching National Geographic’s 45-minute *George W. Bush: The 9/11 Interview*, identify the different “jobs” and actions of the president. Based on what we’ve studied about the 8 different “jobs” of the Executive (Chief of the Party is not used in this activity), classify the different actions that President Bush took on 9/11 as seen or discussed in the interview. His actions, thoughts, and statements could fall under a couple different aspects/categories of his job description; list all the ones you think may apply.

Video link: George W. Bush: The 9/11 Interview National Geographic (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9yh96A-whw)

**Executive Jobs and Descriptions**

Chief Citizen (comforting and informing the US public in times of trouble)

Chief Manager of the Economy (dealing with the US economy/money)

Chief Executive (running the US government and its employees)

Chief of State (ceremonial leader of the government)

Chief Policymaker (proposing laws and meeting with congressional members)

Commander in Chief (running and making military decisions)

Chief Diplomat (overseeing foreign policy, talking and meeting with foreign leaders, negotiating treaties)

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| **September 11, 2001** | |
| **8:45 a.m.** | |
| Daily Security Briefing. |  |
| Going to the Florida school and sitting in the classroom to highlight education reform. |  |
| Telling his staff at the White House to help NY as much as they could once the attack had happened. |  |
| Sitting calmly in front of the students and the press when the news was broken to him about the attack. |  |
| Addressing the press, the school and the nation of what was happening in NY. |  |
| Reaction that the attack on the Pentagon was a “Declaration of War.” |  |
| Feeling and thoughts that his first response to this attack was to stop further attacks and protect our nation. |  |
| Hugging the Air Force 1 flight attendant when he returned to the plane. |  |
| Decision to close all airports and ground all planes nationwide. |  |
| **9:59 a.m.** | |
| Decision to allow the Air Force to shoot down any plane that was still in the air and didn’t land. |  |
| **10:03 a.m.** | |
| Realizing that we were “fighting a new kind of enemy” after Flight 93 crashed in PA and that he was now a “War-Time President.” |  |
| **1:04 p.m.** | |
| Broadcasting a speech that was taped earlier in Louisiana to let the public know that the President was OK and that the Government was still working and functioning. |  |
| **2:50 p.m.** | |
| Demanding that he be taken back to Washington, D.C. to lead the nation from the White House. |  |
| **6:55 p.m.** | |
| On his way back to the White House, flying over the Pentagon to see what had happened. |  |
| Meeting with his Senior Staff for a briefing once he got back to the White House. |  |
| **8:30 p.m.** | |
| Giving the address to the USA and the world of reassurance, comfort, we’re grieving, and that we’d find out who did this. |  |
| **9/12 – The Day(s) After** | |
| Closing the US banks and Wall Street. |  |
| Meeting with the Cabinet and seeing what each Secretary and their departments were doing to help the nation. |  |
| Meeting with the Intelligence Agencies to figure out who attacked us and why we didn’t see it coming. |  |
| Making the statement that the US wanted Osama Bin Laden “Dead or Alive”. |  |
| Making the decision that we would go after Afghanistan before Iraq to get Al Qaida. |  |
| Visiting NYC and Ground Zero. |  |
| Addressing the crowd and first responders at Ground Zero with the megaphone. |  |
| Addressing a joint session of Congress to ask for a declaration of war against terrorists and those that “harbor” them. |  |
| Creating the Secretary of Homeland Security position. |  |
| **10 Years Later** | |
| President Obama addressing the nation that Osama Bin Laden was killed. |  |
| Presidents Bush, Clinton, Obama and the First Ladies visiting the 9/11 memorial and placing wreaths. |  |

Questions for Discussion:

1. After watching, what have you learned about the job of the president?
2. In a time of crisis, which role do you think it most important for a president to play? Why?