Teaching American History: Meeting the Standards
Lesson Plan Format

Names: Veranna Phillips
Rick Roubion
Institute: High School

Title of Lesson: A Tale of Two Presidents; Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton.

Amount of time required to complete lesson: 2-3 days

Lesson Objective: To explore the accomplishments of President Ronald Regan and President Bill Clinton using Primary documents.
A. Students will be able to compare and contrast Reagan and Clinton.
B. Students will be able to effectively debate the effectiveness of Reagan and Clinton’s reform measures
C. Students will be able to write a business letter

Grade Level Expectations (H-1B-H17) Analyze contemporary issues in American society and suggest alternative solutions. (H-1B-H18) Identify recent trends in the U. S. economy and explain shifts in government policy designed to address them.

Essential question(s): What are the similarities and differences between Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton? Were any of their policies similar? What are their views regarding; The Growth of Government, Foreign policy and the Economy?

Materials Required:
1. First and Second Inaugural Address of both Presidents
   www.memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/primary.html
2. Reagan’s remarks during a White House briefing for Tax Reform
   Clinton signing into law Welfare Reform www.archives.gov
   www.memory.loc
4. Reagan’s Farewell address www.reaganfoundation.com/Reagan/speeches
   Clinton singing NAFTA www.archives.gov
6. Venn Diagram

Instructional Strategies Used:
Cooperative Groupings and Jigsawing to read the longer passages of the letters. In the cooperative groups each student must have a clearly defined task as not to waiver. The usual roles are Captain, Recorder, Time Keeper, Listener, Quiet King or Queen. Groups usually don’t work with more than 5 students.
Direct Instruction will be used when necessary.
Directions.

1. Using the Internet and the Inaugural Addresses of both Presidents students will research Presidents Reagan and Clinton for Homework. When they enter class the next day, they will participate in a brainstorming activity. They must fold a sheet of paper and on the left of the paper write down everything they know of Reagan and on the right they must write down everything they know of Clinton. They will have 3 minutes to do this. Then after the teacher collects all of the brainstorming sheets the students will do the same exercise on the board, however this time, the teacher is soliciting volunteers to fill in the Venn diagram that she has drawn on the chalk board. Students will fill in individual diagrams at their seats.
   - Note the teacher must set up rules as to what topics are to be covered, e.g. Government, Foreign Policy, etc.
   - Points should be deducted from students who stray from appropriate themes

2. The Great Debate
Using the primary documents in this unit allow your class to divide into Republicans and Democrats. The teacher must choose Reagan and Clinton of course. Allow each side to become familiar with the documents and the platforms of the candidates. The Republican issue is Tax Reform and the Democratic one is Welfare Reform. Allow them access to the Internet to research their party’s platform beyond the documents you have provided. Have a responsible student mediate the debate because you must keep score. Points are only received when students state factual information about whether their program is working, or their opponent is not. Statements must be based on facts.

3. After examining letters students are to write a Business Letter the elected official of their choice. The purpose of their letter is to let them know the condition of their school. They are also to invite the elected official to tour the campus.

4. Students are to create their own Political Cartoons based on the Growth of Government and the Economy. They can refer to the Editorial pages for examples. Once each student has created their own cartoon, they will be copied and given randomly to their classmates for interpretation.

Assessment
1.) This program had bipartisan approval at its signing in 1993
   a. NAFTA
   b. Welfare Reform
   c. Star Wars
   d. Desert Storm

2.) Ronald Regan was famous for his work in reforming
   a. railroads
3. Clinton's Welfare reform bill gives people _____ years to go from Welfare to Work
   a. 1
   b. 3
   c. 5
   c. 20

4. If these two men were candidates in the upcoming election of 2004, based on everything you've learned about their work in office who would you elect to a third term and why? Your answer must be based on facts presented in the lesson. Aside from the fact that President Reagan is deceased, tell why neither of these men could not campaign for the office of President again?; and they are officially retired? (Hint FDR)