

## President Obama to outline Gun control plans.

Vous connaissez déjà ce document puisqu'il a également fait l'objet d'une compréhension de l'oral il y a quelques semaines. Le document avait posé problème pour diverses raisons, nous en avons parlé en cours, je vous propose de l'étudier plus en détail. Si vous vous souvenez de la problématique de cette séquence, ce document est assez intéressant à étudier.

Je vous donne le script, vous pouvez aller revisionner la vidéo sur Youtube.

“The Vice President and a number of members of my Cabinet went through a very thorough process over the last month, meeting a lot of stakeholders in this including the NRA, listened to proposals from all quarters, and they've presented me now with a list of sensible, common-sense steps that can be taken to make sure that the kinds of violence we saw at Newtown doesn't happen again.

I'm going to be meeting with the Vice President today. I expect to have a fuller presentation later in the week to give people some specifics about what I think we need to do.

My starting point is not to worry about the politics; my starting point is to focus on what makes sense, what works; what should we be doing to make sure that our children are safe and that we're reducing the incidents of gun violence. And I think we can do that in a sensible way that comports the Second Amendment.

And then members of Congress I think are going to have a debate and examine their own conscience-- because if, in fact-- and I believe this is true-- everybody across party lines was as deeply moved and saddened as I was by what happened in Newtown, then we're going to have to vote based on what we think is best. We're going to have to come up with answers that set politics aside. And that's what I expect Congress to do.”

The White House, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2013

Answer these questions:

- 1) Look at the date. Can you identify the context in which this speech was delivered?

*The speech was delivered on January 14<sup>th</sup> 2013, one month after the Sandy Hook shooting occurred in Newtown, Connecticut.*

- 2) “listened to proposals from all quarters, and they've presented me now with a list of sensible, common-sense steps that can be taken”. In this passage, what does President Obama refer to? What is the goal of these “proposals” and the “list of sensible, common-sense steps”?

*These proposals and common-sense steps must be propositions to change the law regarding weapons and arms to ensure and improve safety in schools and in the public space.*

- 3) -The answer is not in the text- Can you name the two political parties of the United States? Which one is Barack Obama's party?

*Republican Party and Democratic Party. Obama belongs to the Democratic Party.*

- 4) According to Barack Obama, is politics important in this context? Why?

*According to Barack Obama, politics is not what matter the most in this context. He says “My starting point is not to worry about politics” which means that people should put aside their political opinion on firearms to focus on what really works.*

- 5) Does he plan to abolish the Second Amendment?

*No, he doesn't want to abolish the Second Amendment but he wants to take measures which comport with it.*

- 6) Look at the last paragraph. What is the strategy Barack Obama uses to convince his political opponents?

*“And then members of Congress I think are going to have a debate and examine their own conscience-- because if, in fact-- and I believe this is true-- everybody across party lines was as deeply moved and saddened as I was by what happened in Newtown, then we're going to have to*

*vote based on what we think is best.” His will to change things, to take measures to ensure and improve safety to reduce gun violence and save children's life seem to be motivated by his emotions. He is “deeply moved and saddened” by what happened in Newtown. He thinks that everyone is as deeply moved and sad as him about what occurred so everyone should agree with him and support the measures he wants to take. To convince his audience and his political opponents he focuses on emotions and feelings. In a way, it means that if they don't agree with him, they are not really honest.*

- 7) Remember the problematic of this sequence (to what extent does the gun issue divide the USA?) and think about it in relation to this speech? What can you say?

*The problematic of this sequence tackles the problems of the divisions which exist when it comes to the debate over guns in the USA. In this speech Barack Obama tries to go beyond the different political opinions over firearms and try to convince his audience and his opponents that they should focus on what makes sense, what works to protect children.*

This document is a speech delivered by President Barack Obama on 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2013, that is to say one month after the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newtown, Connecticut during which 28 people died including the shooter.

In this speech, former President Barack Obama talks about proposals which were discussed in order to reduce gun violence.

Several stakeholders are concerned such as the National Rifle Association which really shows that this problem must be tackled by different parties which defend different ideas. They all must agree on measures to protect children.

What is interesting is that Obama clearly says that politics should be put aside. According to him, they should forget their divergence of opinion on this topic to focus on what really works and what makes sense. His aim is not to abolish the Second Amendment but to pass a law which can ensure that children and American people are safe at school or in the public space.

In the last paragraph of his speech Barack Obama calls for a kind of unity and focuses on emotions. He invites his audience and his political opponents to examine their own conscience. If they may have different opinions over firearms they all feel the same (or should feel the same) about what happened in Newtown. They are deeply moved and saddened. That's why they should all agree with him and take strong measures in order to make sure that what happened in Sandy Hook Elementary School does not happen again. What is interesting is that, if we read between the lines, Obama implies that people who will vote against his project of law, are not really honest and just pretend to feel sad for the family of the victims whereas what they really want is to protect the right to own and bear arms.

Voilà pour ce cours sur le discours d'Obama. J'espère que c'est plus clair maintenant. Si vous avez des questions n'hésitez pas à m'écrire.

Je voulais juste vous parler d'autre chose qui est d'actualité et qui est lié à notre séquence. Je ne sais pas si vous suivez les informations nationales et internationales (at least you should!) mais il s'est passé un phénomène quelque peu surprenant aux Etats-Unis. Alors qu'en France, on voyait des personnes se ruer vers les rayons pâtes et papier toilette des supermarchés, aux Etats-Unis le Covid 19 a pour effet d'encourager les gens à se procurer des armes à feu à tel point que les armureries ne désemplissent pas. Je vous laisse le lien vers un reportage télévisé d'une chaîne australienne qui commente ce fait. Ils expliquent les raisons de ce phénomène.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WN1TMimVOz0>

Take care.