

1812: Congress's First Declaration of War Under the Constitution

Worksheet 3: Document Study—President James Madison's Third Annual Message to Congress

Instructions: Answer the following questions about President James Madison's Third Annual Message to Congress. Select a spokesperson to report your discussion to the class.

1. Identifying key evidence in the text:
 - a. On what occasion was the President writing to Congress?

 - b. What facts related to foreign affairs did he convey?

 - c. What was the President asking Congress to do?

2. Determining the central ideas:
 - a. To what long-term historical situation was the President referring?

 - b. Why would the President say that Congress was most the appropriate body to address this issue?

3. Identifying the logic of the argument:
 - a. According to the President, why was the present moment more urgently calling for action than prior moments?

 - b. What consequences of inaction did the President imply?

