

a. What point do you think Howard G. Goldberg, the author of this op-ed, is making? Do you agree with him? Why or why not?

I think he is making a few points. One is that although times and threats change, America is facing much the same kinds of threats as it has for hundreds of years. Another is that all presidents draw on the material created by presidents before them.

b. What are the "similar themes" that the author argues are used in all Inaugural Addresses?

That the government should be there to help people, not to hinder them. That we must embrace the new century, and must negotiate with other leaders around the world. That we should all work together to create a better economy and society.

c. Why do you think these themes are consistently used? Are they effective? Why or why not?

Because they are what we need to do, and what every president must promise he can do. It remains to be seen whether he can do everything he promises.

d. Which of these themes do you think President-elect Obama will most likely use in his upcoming Inaugural Address? Why?

I think that he will have to explain how the US must change its world policy, and that businesses have to change their practices if they wish to survive. He will have to pull the country out of its recession, and explain that the government will help the average worker and unemployed person.