

-Excerpted from **Booklist**, September 1, 2009.

### **The American Presidency**

Mar. 2009. 144p. illus. Encyclopaedia Britannica, hardcover, \$29.95 ([9781593398439](#)).  
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“When a new president takes office, it is an excellent time for teachers to refresh students on the executive branch and the modern-day impact of former presidents. Every election prompts a new wave of resources on the presidency, and this year’s wave includes *The American Presidency*, from Encyclopaedia Britannica, and *Student’s Guide to the Presidency*, from CQ.

Both texts provide an overview of the presidency, the election process, the cabinet, and related topics. The focus of the chronologically arranged *American Presidency* is the individual president, each of whom is covered in three to four pages. Each entry provides a profile of the president from his early days through retirement, highlighting key accomplishments. Students will be engaged by the layout and numerous images, and the time lines and world maps in each entry are useful features. In addition, each First Lady has a small entry.

The strength of *Student’s Guide to the Presidency* is not the entries on each president but rather the information regarding the election process and the executive branch. The first section of the volume provides essays on the presidency, such as “Power Trip? How Presidents Have Increased the Power of the Office,” which could launch great classroom discussions and research papers. The second, *A–Z* part has entries on the presidents but also on *Department of Education, Presidency and the media, Secret Service*, and a host of other topics. The last portion of the book contains primary sources such as FDR’s Four Freedoms speech and a cartoon depicting Andrew Jackson.

Both books would be a welcome addition to high-school media centers and public libraries, with the first being appropriate for middle school as well.”

— *Kristen Mastel*