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Source Set B—Anti-Impeachment Inquiry

Instructions: You will analyze sources that take a position on the impeachment inquiry into President Trump. Source Set A (sources 1-6) includes sources that support an impeachment inquiry. Source Set B (sources 7-12) includes sources that oppose an impeachment inquiry. Your teacher will assign you a source from each set. Read your assigned sources. Follow the guidelines for analyzing sources provided in “Evaluating Media Sources.” Be prepared to share your responses with your classmates.

Source 7: “Nancy Pelosi will regret rushing into impeachment push,” by Michael Goodwin, in the *New York Post*, September 25, 2019.

You can view the full article here <<http://bit.ly/2oD8KC5>>.

“...Pelosi plunged the country into a nightmare by surrendering to the most radical members of her party and the Trump-hating left-wing press. Political mistakes don’t get much bigger or more consequential....

“Impeachment is a yes or no vote on whether a president has committed ‘high crimes and misdemeanors’ that render him unfit for office. While there is no legal test for what constitutes an impeachable offense, there is a common-sense test, which is why the draconian option has been used only sparingly.

“This case doesn’t come close to meeting any rational standard. The left can spin itself dizzy but it is impossible to believe a majority of all Americans will conclude that the president’s words in the transcript justify removing him from office.

“Pelosi’s problem is that she promised they would. Recall that she specifically hung her commitment to an impeachment inquiry on the phone call.

“Without having any evidence other than hysterical media accounts that were based on anonymous sources, she decided to jump because she reportedly believed the charges against Trump were serious and yet would be easily understood by the public. She convinced herself of this and declared Tuesday that the phone call showed Trump’s ‘betrayal of his oath of office, betrayal of our national security and betrayal of the integrity of our elections.’

“Except the transcript shows nothing of the sort and no amount of sophistry can twist it into something it’s not....”

Source 8: Transcription of an interview with Senator Lindsay Graham on CNN, September 25, 2019. Graham is a Republican.

You can watch the video here <<https://cnn.it/2nUtkO6>>.

“From my point of view to impeach any president over a phone call like this would be insane....

“The Ukrainian president did not feel threatened. He was the target of the phone call. He felt fine with what happened. I have read it just like you have. You can make your own decision, but from a quid pro quo aspect of the phone call, there’s nothing there suggesting that the prosecutor may have been fired because of a conflict of interest.”

Source 9: Tweets from President Trump’s official Twitter account.

You can access Trump’s Twitter account at <<https://twitter.com/POTUS>>.

September 26, 2019 at 9:43 a.m.

“A whistleblower with second hand information? Another Fake News Story! See what was said on the very nice, no pressure, call. Another Witch Hunt!”

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You can view the original tweet here <<http://bit.ly/2nSsMZ3>>.

September 27, 2019 at 6:25 a.m.

“IT WAS A PERFECT CONVERSATION WITH UKRAINE PRESIDENT!”

You can view the original tweet here <<http://bit.ly/2mj7djQ>>.

September 27, 2019 at 6:42 a.m.

“Sounding more and more like the so-called Whistleblower isn’t a Whistleblower at all. In addition, all second hand information that proved to be so inaccurate that there may not have even been somebody else, a leaker or spy, feeding it to him or her? A partisan operative?”

You can view the original tweet here <<http://bit.ly/2n0JoOo>>.

Source 10: “Remarks by President Trump Upon Air Force One Arrival,” Joint Base Andrews, Prince George’s County, Maryland, September 26, 2019, 1:00 p.m.

You can view the full transcript here <<http://bit.ly/2oDftfj>>.

“Hello, everybody. I just watched a little bit of this on television. It’s a disgrace to our country. It’s another witch hunt. Here we go again. It’s Adam Schiff and his crew making up stories and sitting there like pious whatever you want to call them. It’s just a — really, it’s a disgrace....”

“And I have to put up with Adam Schiff on a per- —on an absolutely perfect phone call to the new President of Ukraine. That was a perfect call.

“But Adam Schiff doesn’t talk about Joe Biden and his son walking away with millions of dollars from Ukraine, and then millions of dollars from China. Walking away — in a quick meeting, walking away with millions of dollars. He doesn’t talk about Joe Biden firing a prosecutor, and if that prosecutor is not fired, he’s not going to give him money from the United States of America. They don’t talk about that.

“My call was perfect. The President, yesterday, of Ukraine said there was no pressure put on him whatsoever. None whatsoever. And he said it loud and clear for the press. What these guys are doing—Democrats — are doing to this country is a disgrace and it shouldn’t be allowed. There should be a way of stopping it — maybe legally, through the courts. But they’re going to tie up our country. We can’t talk about gun regulation. We can’t talk about anything because, frankly, they’re so tied up. They’re so screwed up, nothing gets done — except for when I do it....”

Source 11: “Trump Did It, but Should He Be Impeached?” by Jonah Goldberg in the *National Review*, September 27, 2019. Goldberg is a conservative political commentator and author.

The original article can be viewed here <<http://bit.ly/2nWtMeR>>.

“Here’s a take no one will like: I’m confident he did it. I’m confident it’s impeachable. I’m just not so sure he should be impeached for it.

“Let’s start at the top. It’s obvious to me that President Trump pressured the Ukrainian government to launch a probe of former vice president Joe Biden in order to tarnish the image of the Democrat best positioned to defeat him in 2020.

“In the rough transcript of his conversation with Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky, Trump says America has been very good to Ukraine, but he wants the relationship to be more ‘reciprocal.’ Zelensky agrees

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and asks for more anti-tank missiles to deter ongoing Russian military aggression. Trump responds by asking for a two-part ‘favor.’

“First, he asks Zelensky to look into the 2016 hacking of the Democratic National Committee’s servers (a bat guano-crazy request, but whatever). Then, Trump mentions ‘the other thing’ he wants.

“‘There’s a lot of talk about Biden’s son, that Biden stopped the prosecution, and a lot of people want to find out about that, so whatever you can do with the attorney general would be great,’ Trump says.

“The context matters as much as the text. Trump had already blocked the transfer of congressionally approved military aid. Rudy Giuliani, his personal lawyer, had been hectoring the Ukrainians for months to go after Biden (and it remains his singular obsession even now). Giuliani even admitted it last May in an interview with the *New York Times*. He said he was lobbying the Ukrainians to investigate Biden because ‘that information will be very, very helpful to my client.’

“And that’s why Trump asked Zelensky to work with Giuliani....

“Regardless, I think Trump did it. I think it’s obvious he did it. I think as more facts come to light, it will become even more obvious he did it. I also think it’s obvious that this is an impeachable offense.

“However, that doesn’t mean I’m persuaded he must be impeached over it.

“Impeachment doesn’t mean ‘removal from office.’ It’s the political equivalent of a grand jury indictment, with the House fully empowered to impeach any action it deems impeachable. It’s up to the Senate to decide whether a president should be removed....

“If I were Nancy Pelosi, I’d be even more torn than she’s clearly been. In the modern era, we’ve never had the drama of an impeachment process in a president’s first term or in the run-up to a reelection. We’ve never had a lot of things that we’ve had under Trump.

“Absent new facts, the GOP-controlled Senate will not remove Trump. The president would claim ‘exoneration,’ and his behavior would become normalized for future presidents. So I’m not sure Democrats are right to pursue impeachment. I’m sure Republicans are wrong to pretend that what Trump did was totally fine.”

Source 12: “Pelosi’s impeach Trump push insults our Constitution. Why not let voters decide about Trump?” an article by Adam Goodman on the Fox News website, September 29, 2019. Goodman is a Republican media strategist.

The full article can be viewed here <<https://fxn.ws/2mlFtes>>.

“We are watching a public execution.

“Fueled with prejudice and injustice it should disgust all who still hold onto the faint belief that truth and the rule of law still count for something.

“Pushed by Speaker Nancy Pelosi and her political vigilantes, the move to impeach a sitting president this week for things that never happened – a ‘quid’ without a ‘pro quo’ – insults our Constitution and subjects America to well-deserved ridicule from the rest of the planet.

“The assault by a Democratic speaker on a president she abhors was so transparent she indicted him before seeing any evidence, smeared him before hearing any proof, then executed him in the press without any concern for due process.

“It all reminds one of Alice in Wonderland, where the Queen corrected the King’s sense of jurisprudence when she insisted ‘no, no...sentence first – verdict afterward.’

“Then, with a straight face, Nancy Pelosi had the gall to look us square in the eye and say this has nothing to do with politics, nothing to do with her disdain for President Donald Trump, nothing to do with her inability to control Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., and her liberal arsonists who are out to torch the system

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(and the speaker's leadership).

"Seriously?..."

"Here's what we know.

"Our president called Ukraine's president to congratulate him on his party's parliamentary victory. That's what leaders do when other leaders have a good day.

"During that call, confirmed by release of the transcript of that conversation, the president briefly referenced the dropped investigation of Hunter Biden, Joe Biden's son, over allegations the vice president may have unfairly influenced an investigation there, and further asked for help in learning more about how corruption from abroad threatened America's electoral system.

"There was no quid pro quo, no trading of promised military aid for political help, no pressure or demand that Ukraine act—or else!

"The Democrats, even before knowing any of this, said Donald Trump is clearly guilty of the 'high crimes and misdemeanors' standard for impeachment contained in Article 1, Section 2, of the United States Constitution.

"The president's crime? He won the 2016 election....

"If the Democrats' assault on the president goes unchallenged, there will be more investigations, more political witch hunts, and more impeachments. If you don't like something, investigate. If you don't agree with someone, accuse. If all that fails, call for impeachment.

"This is rich, coming from a Congress whose approval ratings are at historic lows, from partisans whose electoral futures are in doubt, and from a House speaker so uncertain about her standing among Democrats she's willing to gamble, risk it all, to take out a president before the people of America weigh in next year wielding their most powerful weapon: the right to vote...."