

ANALYZING THE PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS
ANALYZING ARGUMENTS FOR RHETORICAL CONTENT AND SOUNDNESS

As we learned in class, **a sound argument requires truthful premises and valid logic**. Therefore, the first step in evaluating the soundness of an argument is to determine whether the stated claims are truthful premises. This requires personal knowledge or verification from credible sources (research).

Here is a fact-check of claims made in the president's speech, conducted by the Associated Press:

http://start.toshiba.com/news/read/article/the_associated_press-ap_fact_check_snapshots_from_trumps_speech-ap/category/news

Read the AP analysis—and read another neutral source's fact-checking of the speech (such as Snopes or Fact Check.org) if you suspect bias—and then make a determination about the truthfulness of Mr. Trump's claims and the soundness of his speech as an argument for the effectiveness of his presidency at the end of his first year in office.

Add your conclusions to your rhetorical analysis of the president's speech.

The New York Times (January 31, 2018 online edition) has a video recording of the president's speech, an annotated text of the speech, and commentary and analysis of the speech:

https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/30/us/politics/sotu-trump.html?emc=edit_th_180131&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=74105174