Warm Up Activity – Contextualization of FDR’s Fireside Chat

DIRECTIONS
In a moment you will listen to one of thirty-one radio addresses Franklin Delano Roosevelt gave to the American people during his presidency. FDR called these radio addresses “fireside chats” as he took a relaxed tone with his listeners, the American public.

BEFORE LISTENING
Imagine you are listening to one of FDR’s “fireside chats” in 1935. Draw a picture of what this looks like below. Where are you listening to the radio? Who is with you?

Now surround your picture with drawings or words expressing what concerns you might have as a U.S. citizen in 1935.

DURING LISTENING
Now listen carefully to President Roosevelt’s fireside chat, “On the Works Relief Program,” delivered from the White House, April 28, 1935 and answer the questions below:

1. Why did FDR give this address?

2. Who is FDR’s audience? How does FDR’s audience regard him?

3. Examine the text and identify one quote where FDR tries to relate with his audience

AFTER LISTENING
How did FDR’s use of the “fireside chat” help gain public support of his New Deal programs?