

How to “Talk to the Text”

1. Look for the title of the text and underline.
2. Look for the author of the text and circle it.
3. Look for how the text is organized and label.
4. Put a ? next to words you don't understand.
5. Look for clues that help you answer the questions and label.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Hour: _____

Chapter 9 Reading Selection: From Senator Huey Long's "Share Our Wealth" Speech

Here is what we stand for in a nutshell:

Number one: we propose that every family in America should at least own a homestead equal in value to not less than one third the average family wealth. The average family wealth of America, in normal values, is approximately \$16,000. So our first proposition means that every family will have a home and the comforts of a home up to the value of not less than around \$5,000 or a little more than that.

Number two: we propose that no family shall own more than three hundred times the average family wealth, which means that no family shall possess more than a wealth of approximately \$85 million, none to own less than \$5,000, none to own more than \$5 million. We think that's too much to allow them to own, but at least it's extremely conservative.

Number three: we propose that every family shall have an income equal to at least one third of the average family income in America. If all were allowed to work, there'd be an income of from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per family. We propose that one third would be the minimum. We propose that no family have an earning of less than around \$2,000 to \$2,500 and that none will have more than three hundred times the average less the ordinary income taxes, which means that a million dollars would be the limit on the highest income.

We also propose to give the old-age pensions to the old people, not by taxing them or their children, but by levying the taxes upon the excess fortunes to whittle them down, and on the excess incomes and excess inheritances, so that the people who reach the age of sixty can be retired from the active labor of life and given an opportunity to have surcease and ease for the balance of the life that they have on earth.

We also propose the care for the veterans, including the cash payment of the soldiers' bonus. We likewise propose that there should be an education for every youth in this land and that no youth would be dependent upon the financial means of his parents in order to have a college education.

1. Summarize Long's plan.
2. What does he promise to war veterans?
3. What does he promise to old people?
4. Where is he going to get the money to pay for these programs?