

7th and 8th Graders Reflect on the Inauguration

Chloe P.

“I was expecting Obama to harken back to Daniel Webster, “I am not a Massachusetts man, or a New England man, but I am an American.” However he did not need to say it. Just looking at the diversity of the crowd – black, white, Asian, Latino, and many mixtures – said more than any human could express.”

Kyli R.

“His words are so empowering. I cried a little. It is very emotional for me because Obama is the president that is helping to define my future.”

Aliyah G.

“Everything that he has/will dealt with in his office make him even stronger and more of a role model to all Americans. This day is just the beginning, this proves that America is growing and making progress as a whole. It is now official, change will come!”

Allie D.

“Sixty years ago, people would laugh if you told them an African-American would be even considered for the presidency. So much has changed since then.”

Demetra M.

“President Obama’s speech was very moving, especially with all the economic problems that are hurting the U.S. I am glad to have seen Obama being sworn into the presidency, because of its historic value.”

Jacquie W.

“I have a feeling that President Barack Obama will bring our country closer to other countries because when he was running for president, he wasn’t just going all around the United States, he was traveling all over the world.”

Josh R.

“Hopefully a new president will be able to end war with Iraq and help our fellow Americans with their struggles and problems.”

Shannon P.

“Although Obama is younger than and not as experienced as prior presidents, he is able to carry out the duties that you need to face as a president and succeed. I have faith in Barack Obama and believe that he can help change the United States for the better.”

Patrick M.

“All of America watched as a man took the oath of office and inspired a nation that has been through so much. The United States of America has been hit by hard blows and the sting of the blows still remain. As Thomas Jefferson once said, “The tree of liberty must be refreshed in the blood of patriots and tyrants”... Only 60 years ago the thought of a black man even drinking out of the same water fountain as a white man was unheard of, and now to see a black man take the office of president shows how strong and how far we have come as a nation together.”

Imani W.

“Barack Obama has worked so hard throughout his life even though there were some rough times, he never gave up. He is truly one of my inspirational idols.”

Sara Y.

“I’ve realized that America is not about sides, democratic or republican. No, it is about standing together to fight for justice and equality for all who can endure to seek it. That and that alone makes our country the great nation it is. I do believe that if, in the words of our new President, “we can stand up and dust ourselves off” again, we can overcome the hardships that we face today, as we have faced many others, such as segregation and inequality.”

Becky M.

“It’s good to know that our country has gone from rejecting African Americans to electing one to represent and protect us! G-d bless you, Obama, for being brave enough to give us this opportunity! This, in itself, will motivate our country to improve by reminding us that we already have improved a tremendous amount!”