

his assertions rigorously and call out his lies immediately. # Even this deep into a presidency of such incompetence and amorality, he deserves a hearing; that's how the rest of us demonstrate the very respect for traditions and norms that he refuses to show. But he doesn't deserve an unfiltered one. That's the road to autocracy. # Trump isn't selling something that the country really needs, and that's why he and his allies have to lard the pitch with lies. According to The Washington Post Fact Checker, there are more bogus claims and hallucinated menaces when he talks about immigration and the border than when he talks about anything else. # He insists that would-be terrorists see a porous southern border as a welcome mat, but that's bunk: Most try to get into the United States by plane and are apprehended at airports. He wildly inflates the amount of crime committed by undocumented immigrants and just as wildly overstates the effect a border wall might have on the country's opioid crisis. He did this again on Tuesday night, even though he wasn't speaking off the cuff, in a revved-up style, at one of his rallies. He read prepared remarks, and still there was fiction aplenty in them. # Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer, who were given time immediately following Trump to present a rebuttal, clearly expected and were ready for that. In ticking off reasons that an expensive and expansive border wall wasn't needed, Pelosi kept saying, " the fact is, " " the fact is. " It was a mantra meant to humiliate Trump, which is a sport that she is developing an ever greater taste for.