

Challenger: Speech File

OVERVIEW

Look through the materials in your speech file. List three of the different documents that you see:

	<u>Title of Document</u>	<u>Date on Document</u> (if available)
1)	_____	_____
2)	_____	_____
3)	_____	_____

(Document #1)

1. Look at the **President's Back-up Copy**.
 - a. What do you think the backup copy was used for?

 - b. What do you think the marks on the backup copy represent?

 - c. What does the word "Noonan" in parenthesis at the upper left-hand corner of the document represent?

 - d. Where was the speech presented? How do you know this?

(Document #2)

2. Look at the document "**Presidential Remarks: Death of Space Shuttle Challenger Crew Tuesday, January 28, 1986.**"
 - a. What do the initials "RR" stand for? _____
 - b. What important address was the president expecting to give that night?

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- c. How do you know? Provide a quote to back-up your response.

- d. How many astronauts died on board the shuttle Challenger? _____

- e. What was unique about this particular mission?

- f. Had Americans lost astronauts in space prior to this accident? _____

- g. List two adjectives to describe the mood of the president and of the nation on this day.

- h. Pretend you are a teacher watching this space shuttle take-off from your classroom with your class. What would you say to your students after the space shuttle explodes?



Photo courtesy of NASA

- i. Imagine you are the president and have just been informed of this incident. What do you think your role is in this tragedy?

(Document #3)

3. Examine the page titled **“White House Staffing Memorandum.”**

- a. Why is it marked “ASAP”?

- b. What do you think this memorandum is used for? Why?

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c. What role did Admiral John Poindexter play in the Reagan Administration?

d. What is the NSC?

e. Why would the NSC be reviewing the president's remarks?

f. What role did Ben Elliott play in the Reagan Administration?

g. Examine the changes made by the NSC.

List two changes which the president incorporated in his remarks.

List two changes which the president did **not** incorporate in his remarks.

(Document #4)

4. Look at the **“Remarks of the President on Space Shuttle Explosion.”**

a. What is the date on this document? _____

b. What is the time on this document? _____

c. What does the letter “Q” stand for within the document? _____

d. From where was this address made? _____

e. List three emotions expressed by the president in this document.

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f. Provide evidence for your response to question (e) using 2 or more quotes from the text.

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- g. Do you think the president would continue to support the space program after this accident? _____
- h. Explain your response to question (g) using a quote from the document to support your response.

(Document #5)

5. Look at the document titled, “**High Flight.**”

- a. What kind of document is this? _____
- b. Why is it included in this speech file?

(Document Set #6a and 6b)

6. What was the “**Teacher in Space Project?**”

- a. How does it relate to the Space Shuttle Challenger?

- b. What was the name of the “teacher in space”?

- c. What was the teacher expecting to do in space?

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(Document Set #7)

7. Examine the **letters written to President Reagan**.

a. Why have they been saved in the speech file?

b. Summarize one of the letters in two-three sentences.

c. If you have not already done so, read President Reagan's "**Address to the Nation: Death of Space Shuttle Challenger Crew.**" (Check box when complete.)

d. In two paragraphs or more, write your own response to the president.

(Use the back of the sheet to continue writing your response.)