

Speechmaking  
and  
Speechwriting Activities:

*The Pointe du Hoc  
Speech File*

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum  
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[www.reaganlibrary.com](http://www.reaganlibrary.com)

*Engage  
Excite  
Educate*

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*The Great Communicator Files*



# Pointe du Hoc: 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)	_____	_____

## EXAMINE THE SPEECH:

### (Document #1)

1. Look at the **speech**.

a. Why do you think it is written in such large letters?

\_\_\_\_\_

b. Why doesn't the text take up the entire page?

\_\_\_\_\_

c. What do you think this copy was originally used for?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. **Where** was this speech delivered? How do you know?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What **date** was this speech delivered? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What is significant about this date?

\_\_\_\_\_

## Pointe du Hoc: Speech File

### READ THE SPEECH:

5. Where is **Pointe du Hoc**? How do you know?

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6. What country were the **Rangers** from? Quote the sentence which provides this information.

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7. What was the mission of the Rangers upon landing at Normandy? What was so difficult about this mission?

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8. What instrument did Bill Millin play? What was significant about this act?

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9. Which other countries fought at Normandy against the Nazis?

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10. What was the **Marshall Plan**?

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11. What did President Reagan think was the significance of the Marshall Plan?

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## Pointe du Hoc: Speech File

12. According to President Reagan, why did the Western forces maintain a presence in Europe after World War II?

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13. What **lesson** did President Reagan feel Americans learned from World War II?

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List the quote that answers this question for you.

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14. With which country did President Reagan want to reconcile at the writing of this speech? \_\_\_\_\_

15. List two-three sentences which you think are the most important quote in this speech.

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Explain why you chose this quote.

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### (Document #2)

1. From which office does this document originate? How do you know this?

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## Pointe du Hoc: Speech File

2. What do you think was the purpose of this document?

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What evidence did you use to draw this conclusion?

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3. At what time was this document sent? \_\_\_\_\_

### (Document #3)

1. What is the title of this document?

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2. What is the date of this document? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Why are there so many **names** written on the document?

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4. What, do you think, was this document used for?

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5. How many days prior to the delivery of the "*Pointe du Hoc Speech*" was this document circulated? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What is the concern expressed in the response column?

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7. Do you think this concern is important? Why or why not?

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## Pointe du Hoc: Speech File

### (Document #4)

1. What date was this document written? \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_
2. How many days before to the delivery of the “*Pointe du Hoc Speech*” was this document written? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What, do you think, this document is?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. List two specific examples of how this document differs from the final version of the “*Pointe du Hoc Speech*.”
  - 1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Do you prefer the original or the final version of each of these two examples?  
 Original version                       Final version

### (Document #5)

1. What type of document is this?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- How do you know this?
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Pointe du Hoc: Speech File

2. List and describe three stories from this document that were used in the *Point du Hoc Speech*.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### (Document #6)

1. What **book** is this document from? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Why is this document included in the speech file?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Pointe du Hoc: Speech Writing

### SPEECH ELEMENTS



#### 1. Elements of a successful speech include:

- Attention-getting devices such as stories or interesting facts or jokes.
- Clear communication – understandable language and specific points, ideas and plans.
- Accurate information.
- Specific examples to back-up your ideas.
- An exciting ending such as a call to action or the repetition of a unifying theme.

#### 2. Multiple Drafts and Lots of Practice

Successful speeches, including presidential speeches, generally have gone through numerous drafts and have often been seen and reviewed by more than one person. Presidents generally practice their speeches and receive suggestions on how to best present information to the public.

#### 3. Know Thyself

Develop your own style. Present your speech in a manner which is consistent with and reflects your own personality.

### THE POINTE DU HOC SPEECH ELEMENTS:

(On a separate sheet of paper)

**List, describe and provide three examples** of the elements of successful speech writing evidenced in President Reagan's "Pointe du Hoc Speech."

## Pointe du Hoc: Speech Writing

### CREATE YOUR OWN SPEECH:

1. **Brainstorm a list of issues which are important to you.** They can be school-based, local, state, national or international issues.

Some examples may include:

- creating grade restrictions for playing on an athletic team,
  - school-improvement efforts,
  - lowering the age required to obtain a drivers' license,
  - election reform,
- or
- foreign policy.

2. **Write a 250 word speech.** Make sure you incorporate the “elements of a successful speech” described above.
3. **Ask at least two other people you trust** to read over your speech and make comments and suggestions.
4. **Incorporate at least two of the** suggestions and change your speech to reflect these suggestions.
5. **Practice your speech** in front of at least two other people.
6. **Email your speech to [reaganeducation@nara.gov](mailto:reaganeducation@nara.gov).**

Excerpts from the very best speeches will be posted on the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum website.

Additionally, three times a year, one speech will be selected as the Great Communicator Student Winner. The student winner's speech will be posted in the rotunda of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library.

Each student winner will receive:

- ☺ four free passes to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Museum
- ☺ a certificate
- ☺ additional prizes from the museum gift store