

Speechmaking
and
Speechwriting Activities:

*The Omaha Beach
Memorial Remarks
Speech File*

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum
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*Engage
Excite
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The Great Communicator Files

Omaha Beach Memorial Remarks 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?

Omaha Beach Memorial Remarks Speech File

READ THE SPEECH:

5. According to President Reagan, to what cause did the men who fought in the Battle of Normandy dedicate themselves to?

6. List two people President Reagan quoted in his speech.

7. What is a **liberator**?

Why did President Reagan refer to the allied soldiers in the Battle of Normandy as liberators?

8. According to President Reagan, what did the unity of the western world provide at the time the speech was delivered in 1984?

(Document #2)

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

Omaha Beach Memorial Remarks Speech File

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

What evidence did you use to draw this conclusion?

3. At what time was this document sent? _____

(Document #3)

1. What is the title of this document?

2. What is the date of this document? _____

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

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

(Document #4)

1. What is the date on this document? _____

2. From which office was this document sent? How do you know this?

Omaha Beach Memorial Remarks Speech File

3. What specific **concern** is listed on the title page of this document?

4. List two changes that were suggested in this draft.

1) _____

2) _____

5. Compare this document to the “Omaha Beach Memorial Remarks” that President Reagan delivered on June 6, 1984.

Were the two changes made? Yes No

Explain: _____

6. Do you think the changes should have been made? Yes No

Explain: _____

(Document #5)

Which of the quotes listed in this document was used in the “Omaha Beach Memorial Remarks”?

(Document Set #6)

1. Did President Reagan read any part of these documents? _____

How do you know?

Omaha Beach Memorial Remarks Speech File

2. What was Lisa Zanata Henn requesting from President Reagan?

3. How was Ms. Henn's request accommodated? Explain.

4. What role did Ms. Henn's father play on D-Day?

5. What is Ms. Henn's short story about? Summarize this in two or more sentences.

6. Which is your favorite of Ms. Henn's stories about her father's experiences on D-Day? Why?

7. Provide your favorite 2-3 sentence quote from Ms. Henn's story?

8. Why was this your favorite quote?

Omaha Beach Memorial Remarks Speech File

9. What do you think interested President Reagan in this story?

(Document #7)

1. Which institution issued the original document?

2. What is this document?

3. What is the date of this document? _____

4. What date was Private First Class Peter Zanata inducted into army service? How do you know?

5. What date was Private First Class Peter Zanata sent to fight overseas? What date did he arrive? Why did it take so long to get there?

6. Did Private First Class Peter Zanata fight in the Battle of Normandy? Where does it state this information?

7. List the medals that Private First Class Zanata received.

8. Why, do you think, this document was included in the speech file?

Omaha Beach Memorial Remarks Speech File: 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 OMAHA BEACH MEMORIAL 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 “Omaha Beach Memorial Remarks.”

Omaha Beach Memorial Remarks Speech File: 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.**

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