

Challenger: 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.

QUESTION ON THE CHALLENGER SPEECH ELEMENTS:

(Answer the following question on a separate sheet of paper)

List, describe and provide three examples of the elements of successful speech writing evidenced in President Reagan’s “Address to the Nation: Death of Space Shuttle Challenger Crew.”

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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