

Space Background Video Questions

Deliberation Topic: American Space Program: Priorities and Partnerships

Directions: To provide a background for the deliberation, answer the questions associated with each of the videos.

President Kennedy's 1962 Speech on the US Space Program (3:41)

- How does JFK justify the time and resources for space exploration? How does he compare it to other ventures in US history?
- What are Kennedy's reasons to go specifically to the moon?
- Why might this speech resonate with many Americans in the early 1960s? Consider the culture and other contemporary events of the time period.

Brief History of the US Space Program- Scientist Ted Spitzmiller (6:27)

- What does Spitzmiller indicate as the most important factors in the creation of the US space program?
- Why does Spitzmiller say the space race effectively ends in the late 1960s?
- How does Spitzmiller account for the shift from public to private space programming from the 1980s to the present?

The Space Shuttle Program (4:33)

- Explain the focus of the space shuttle era.
- Describe how shuttles were launched into space.
- Explain the purpose of the shuttle.

The Future of Space Exploration- Professor Chris Impey, University of Arizona (6:11)

- What is NASA's role in the continuation of space exploration efforts? How does NASA compare to other private space companies?
- According to Mr. Impey, what is most valuable about seizing an asteroid?
- What is significant about maintaining the International Space Station?

The Role of NASA- Acting NASA Administrator Lightfoot (3:25)

- What is NASA primarily known for?
- How does NASA act as an "arm of foreign policy" of the United States?
- Explain how NASA aids in the industrial base of the United States?
- What does help with the spread of technology?
- How does NASA serve as a spotlight for inspiration and leadership?