

**Use this speech to answer questions 1-5:**

Gerald R. Ford's "Address Upon Taking the Oath of the U.S. Presidency"

Mr. Chief Justice, my dear friends, my fellow Americans:

(1) Therefore, I feel it is my first duty to make an unprecedented compact with my countrymen. Not an inaugural address, not a fireside chat, not a campaign speech -- just a little straight talk among friends. And I intend it to be the first of many.

(2) I am acutely aware that you have not elected me as your President by your ballots, and so I ask you to confirm me as your President with your prayers. And I hope that such prayers will also be the first of many. If you have not chosen me by secret ballot, neither have I gained office by any secret promises. I have not campaigned either for the Presidency or the Vice Presidency. I have not subscribed to any partisan platform. I am indebted to no man, and only to one woman -- my dear wife -- as I begin this very difficult job.

(3) I have not sought this enormous responsibility, but I will not shirk it. Those who nominated and confirmed me as Vice President were my friends and are my friends. They were of both parties, elected by all the people and acting under the Constitution in their name. It is only fitting then that I should pledge to them and to you that I will be the President of all the people.

(4) To the peoples and the governments of all friendly nations, and I hope that could encompass the whole world, I pledge an uninterrupted and sincere search for peace. America will remain strong and united, but its strength will remain dedicated to the safety and sanity of the entire family of man, as well as to our own precious freedom. I believe that truth is the glue that holds government together, not only our Government but civilization itself. That bond, though stained, is unbroken at home and abroad.

(5) Our Constitution works. Our great Republic is a government of laws and not of men. Here, the people rule. But there is a higher Power, by whatever name we honor Him, who ordains not only righteousness but love, not only justice but mercy. As we bind up the internal wounds of Watergate, more painful and more poisonous than those of foreign wars, let us restore the golden rule to our political process, and let brotherly love purge our hearts of suspicion and of hate.

(6) In the beginning, I asked you to pray for me. Before closing, I ask again your prayers, for Richard Nixon and for his family. May our former President, who brought peace to millions, find it for himself. May God bless and comfort his wonderful wife and daughters, whose love and loyalty will forever be a shining legacy to all who bear the lonely burdens of the White House. I can only guess at those burdens, although I have witnessed at close hand the tragedies that befell three Presidents and the lesser trials of others.

1. Ford expresses his belief that “truth is the glue that holds government together, not only our Government but civilization itself. That bond, though stained, is unbroken at home and abroad” (Paragraph 4) primarily to:

- a. Argue how the United States government is entirely dishonest
- b. Establish his integrity and to gain the trust of the audience
- c. Explain why the American citizens should be truthful
- d. Call out the lack of honesty in the last presidency
- e. Criticize other countries and their dishonesty compared to the U.S.

2. The author’s tone in the sentence, “As we bind up the internal wounds of Watergate, more painful and more poisonous than those of foreign wars, let us restore the golden rule to our political process, and let brotherly love purge our hearts of suspicion and of hate,” (Paragraph 5) can be best described as:

- a. Resentful and understanding
- b. Hostile and joyful
- c. Nostalgic and lighthearted
- d. Retrospective and progressive
- e. Sardonic and passionate

3. In the 6th paragraph (In the beginning...others), Ford appeals to audience’s emotions and sympathy towards Nixon by:

- a. Reflecting on other presidential downfalls
- b. Reinforcing the good nature of the Nixon family
- c. Asserting that Nixon did what was best in his circumstances
- d. Demanding the audience to think about what they are going through
- e. Hinting at President Nixon’s terrible choices

4. The function of the first paragraph (Therefore....many) is to:

- a. Outline what will be discussed in the speech
- b. Explain the author’s stance in a controversy
- c. Introduce why the author is in an unusual situation
- d. Inform the audience that he understands what they are feeling
- e. Define the speech’s nature and intent

5. In the second and third paragraphs, the author’s purpose transitions from:

- a. Denying that this was a planned presidency to promising his best efforts
- b. Asserting his great desire to be president to explaining how his friends helped him get the position
- c. Emphasizing how he wants the audience’s approval to expressing how the people voted for him
- d. Accepting this unconventional role to explaining why he is the best candidate
- e. Establishing how he came to be in this position to outlining his campaign plan

ANSWERS ON NEXT PAGE

1. B
2. D
3. B
4. E
5. A

