

Use this speech to answer questions 1-5:

Excerpt from Ronald Reagan's *The Space Shuttle "Challenger" Tragedy Address*

Ladies and Gentlemen, I'd planned to speak to you tonight to report on the state of the Union, but the events of earlier today have led me to change those plans. Today is a day for mourning and remembering. Nancy and I are pained to the core by the tragedy of the [Shuttle Challenger](#). We know we share this pain with all of the people of our country. This is truly a national loss.

Nineteen years ago, almost to the day, we lost three astronauts in a terrible accident on the ground. But we've never lost an astronaut in flight. We've never had a tragedy like this.

And perhaps we've forgotten the courage it took for the crew of the shuttle. But they, the Challenger Seven, were aware of the dangers, but overcame them and did their jobs brilliantly. We mourn seven heroes: Michael Smith, Dick Scobee, Judith Resnik, Ronald McNair, Ellison Onizuka, Gregory Jarvis, and Christa McAuliffe.

We mourn their loss as a nation together.

For the families of the seven, we cannot bear, as you do, the full impact of this tragedy. But we feel the loss, and we're thinking about you so very much. Your loved ones were daring and brave, and they had that special grace, that special spirit that says, "Give me a challenge, and I'll meet it with joy." They had a hunger to explore the universe and discover its truths. They wished to serve, and they did. They served all of us.

I've always had great faith in and respect for our space program. And what happened today does nothing to diminish it. We don't hide our space program. We don't keep secrets and cover things up. We do it all up front and in public. That's the way freedom is, and we wouldn't change it for a minute.

There's a coincidence today. On this day three hundred and ninety years ago, the great explorer Sir Francis Drake died aboard ship off the coast of Panama. In his lifetime the great frontiers were the oceans, and a historian later said, "He lived by the sea, died on it, and was buried in it." Well, today, we can say of the Challenger crew: Their dedication was, like Drake's, complete.

1. The author includes the first paragraph primarily to:
 - a. Declare the magnitude of the tragedy that occurred
 - b. Illustrate the priorities of the United States Government
 - c. Inform the audience that the state of the Union is not very important
 - d. Imply that the Nancy is involved in the affairs of the United States
 - e. Hint that Americans should be troubled by the death of the crew of the *Challenger*

2. The second paragraph serves primarily to:
 - a. Enlighten the audience on the commonness of such incidents
 - b. Express his sorrow to the crew of the *Challenger*
 - c. Emphasize how unprecedented the tragedy is
 - d. Observe that the amount of astronauts having fatal incidents in space shuttles are on an upward trend
 - e. Explain to the audience that losing astronauts in flight is a greater tragedy than losing them on the ground

3. The tone of the speech changes from the third paragraph to the fifth paragraph from:
 - a. Pompous and ritualistic to condoling and approving
 - b. Moralistic and introspective to mournful and inspirational
 - c. Sprightly and stately to informal and appreciative
 - d. Eulogistic and solemn to intimate and sympathetic
 - e. Admiring and sorrowful to reverent and elated

4. The purpose of paragraph six is primarily to:
 - a. Describe the causes that the crew of the *Challenger* fought for
 - b. Publicly endorse the space program despite the incident that occurred
 - c. Explain the reason for the *Challenger* shuttle launch
 - d. Demonstrate the wide variety of contexts in which American values exist
 - e. Attack other nations that are not transparent with their progress in space exploration

5. The author includes the ninth paragraph in order to:
 - a. Honor the crew as a valuable part of exploratory history

- b. Relate challenges of 16th century sea exploration to 20th century space exploration
- c. Provide further evidence to support that those who are dedicated will be recognized for their actions
- d. Distract the audience from their grief by introducing a thought-invoking story
- e. Demonstrate the usefulness of exploration to the improvement of society

ANSWERS ON NEXT PAGE

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