

Study Guide for John F. Kennedy's "We Choose to Go to the Moon" Speech



Study Guide for John F. Kennedy's We Choose to Go to the Moon Speech (Course Hero Study Guides)

by Course Hero

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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*"We choose to go to the Moon!
We choose to go to the Moon in
this decade and do the other
things, not because they are easy,
but because they are hard."*

John F. Kennedy

John F. Kennedy's "We Choose to Go to the Moon" speech is one of the most famous and iconic speeches in American history. Delivered on September 12, 1962, at Rice University in Houston, Texas, the speech outlined Kennedy's ambitious goal of sending a man to the moon before the end of the decade.

In this study guide, we will delve into the historical context, key points, and rhetorical devices used in Kennedy's speech. We will also provide helpful study materials to assist you in your understanding of this important piece of American history.

Historical Context

The "Space Race" between the United States and the Soviet Union was a major aspect of the Cold War. In 1957, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik, the first artificial satellite to orbit the Earth. This event shocked the American public and led to widespread concern about the nation's technological capabilities.

In response to Sputnik, President Eisenhower created the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 1958. NASA's mission was to develop America's space program and regain the lead in the Space Race.

Kennedy's "We Choose to Go to the Moon" speech was delivered at a time when the United States was trailing behind the Soviet Union in the Space Race. The Soviets had already sent a man into space and were planning to send a man to the moon.

Kennedy's speech was intended to inspire the American people and rally support for his ambitious goal of sending a man to the moon before the end of the decade.

Key Points

In his speech, Kennedy outlined the following key points:

- The United States must take the lead in the Space Race in Free Download to maintain its technological superiority and global leadership.
- Sending a man to the moon is a challenging but achievable goal that will inspire the American people and show the world the capabilities of

the United States.

- The benefits of space exploration will extend far beyond the moon and will help to improve life on Earth.

Rhetorical Devices

Kennedy's speech is a masterclass in rhetoric. He uses a variety of rhetorical devices to persuade his audience and build support for his goal of sending a man to the moon.

Some of the rhetorical devices used in the speech include:

- **Anaphora:** The repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of successive clauses or sentences.
- **Parallelism:** The use of similar grammatical structures to create a sense of rhythm and balance.
- **Metaphor:** The use of figurative language to compare two unlike things.
- **Rhetorical questions:** Questions asked for effect, not to elicit an answer.

Study Materials

In addition to this study guide, there are a number of helpful study materials available online. These materials can help you to understand the historical context, key points, and rhetorical devices used in Kennedy's speech.

Some of the most helpful study materials include:

- Course Hero's Study Guide for John F. Kennedy's "We Choose to Go to the Moon" Speech
- History.com's article on John F. Kennedy's "We Choose to Go to the Moon" Speech
- American Rhetoric's annotated text of John F. Kennedy's "We Choose to Go to the Moon" Speech

John F. Kennedy's "We Choose to Go to the Moon" speech is a powerful and inspiring piece of American oratory. The speech outlines Kennedy's ambitious goal of sending a man to the moon before the end of the decade and provides a compelling rationale for why this goal is important.

This study guide has provided an overview of the historical context, key points, and rhetorical devices used in Kennedy's speech. We have also provided links to helpful study materials that can assist you in your understanding of this important piece of American history.



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