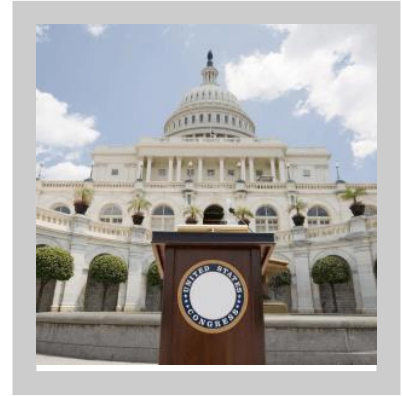


Name _____

Date _____

The President's Speech

Have you ever seen the President give a speech on television? Believe it or not, presidents usually do not write their own speeches. The ideas in the speech belong to the President, but the exact words are composed by a different person. This person is known as a speech writer.



Nearly all recent presidents have hired speech writers. Most presidents are very good speakers. But they may not be good writers. They also do not have much free time. So they hire people who are very good writers to write their speeches for them. The President and his or her advisors sit down with the speech writer before the speech. They discuss the important topics and plan the tone, or feeling, of the speech.

Being a speech writer can be difficult. Sometimes speech writers are called to write a very important speech in a short amount of time. If there is a national threat or the country is going to war, presidential speech writers have to be extremely careful about what they write and how they write it. They have to make sure they write exactly what the President means to say. There is no room for mistakes.

1) In paragraph 1, the author writes, "The ideas in the speech belong to the President." Which of the following details from the passage best supports this statement?

- A. "But the exact words are composed by a different person."
- B. "Nearly all recent presidents have hired speech writers."
- C. "They discuss the important topics and plan the tone, or feeling, of the speech."
- D. "There is no room for mistakes."

2) According to the author, presidents hire speech writers because presidents

- I. may not be good speakers
 - II. may not be good writers
 - III. do not have much free time
- A. I only
 - B. I and II only
 - C. II and III only
 - D. I, II, and III

3) Based on the information in the passage, it can be understood that being a speech writer is a difficult job because speech writers

- A. do not get paid very well
- B. have to work under pressure
- C. have to work long hours
- D. are not recognized for their work

4) Based on the information in the passage, it can be understood that which of the following events would require a speech writer to be the most careful?

- A. an election
- B. a report of an enemy attack
- C. a natural disaster
- D. a memorial for past victims

5) In paragraph 3, the author writes, "They have to make sure they write exactly what the President means to say." This statement is intended to

- A. provide an example
- B. introduce a new idea
- C. summarize the passage
- D. support an earlier statement

6) Do you think presidents should use speech writers, or should they return to writing their own speeches? Explain.
