

One Life, Three Lenses

Compare how print, video, and audio shape a biography.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.9-10.7 "Analyze various accounts of a subject told in different mediums (e.g., a person's life story in both print and multimedia), determining which details are emphasized in each account."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details in each paragraph that receive the most attention. Label them P, V, or A for print, video, or audio, so you can compare what each medium emphasizes.

Accounts of Katherine Johnson

- ① A print profile of NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson begins with her childhood in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. It explains that she showed unusual skill with numbers, entered high school at ten, and graduated from West Virginia State College at eighteen. The writer then describes how segregated schools limited educational choices for Black students in her area, so her family moved to Institute, West Virginia, during the school year. Most of the profile follows Johnson's preparation: classes in mathematics, a degree in math and French, and a teacher who urged her to become a research mathematician.
- ② A museum video uses animated maps, photographs, and a model spacecraft to follow Johnson's work at the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics and later NASA. A narrator says that, in 1962, astronaut John Glenn asked for Johnson to check by hand the electronic computer's calculations for his Friendship 7 flight. The screen shows lines of orbital equations as the narrator explains why the trajectory mattered: Glenn's capsule had to return safely to Earth. Brief interviews with former coworkers describe Johnson as careful and persistent. The video spends little time on her schooling, instead building suspense around the mission.
- ③ A podcast episode about Johnson centers on the years after the Friendship 7 mission. The host notes that she calculated trajectories for later Mercury missions, worked on Apollo lunar missions, and contributed to plans for the Space Shuttle program. In an audio clip, Johnson recalls liking to know what was happening and why. The episode also reports that NASA awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015 and that the film *Hidden Figures* brought wider attention to her story in 2016. Sound clips from launches and film dialogue make the account feel celebratory. The host mentions segregation only while introducing her early career.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Compare the print profile and the podcast. Which period of Johnson’s life does each account emphasize? Support your answer with one detail from each account.

2 How do the museum video’s visual and sound-related choices emphasize the Friendship 7 mission? Use at least two details from the account.

3 Which account most strongly presents one high-stakes moment in Johnson’s career? Explain how both its selected details and its medium create that emphasis.

4 Which account would best help a reader understand how segregation shaped Johnson’s opportunities before NASA? Compare its emphasis with one other account.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose two of the three accounts. In four or five sentences, compare how their media and selected details shape each account’s emphasis. Use at least one specific detail from each account, then state which account better explains one aspect of Johnson’s life and why.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details in each paragraph that receive the most attention. Label them P, V, or A for print, video, or audio, so you can compare what each medium emphasizes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Compare the print profile and the podcast. Which period of Johnson's life does each account emphasize? Support your answer with one detail from each account.	The print profile emphasizes Johnson's early education and preparation, including her schooling, college degree, and family's move. The podcast emphasizes her later career and recognition, including Apollo work, the Space Shuttle program, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and Hidden Figures.
2	How do the museum video's visual and sound-related choices emphasize the Friendship 7 mission? Use at least two details from the account.	The video uses animated maps, a spacecraft model, orbital equations, and coworker interviews to make the mission seem precise, urgent, and high-stakes. It stresses that Johnson checked calculations needed for Glenn's safe return to Earth.
3	Which account most strongly presents one high-stakes moment in Johnson's career? Explain how both its selected details and its medium create that emphasis.	The museum video most strongly presents a single high-stakes moment, John Glenn's Friendship 7 flight. Its visual equations, spacecraft model, and suspense about a safe return focus attention on Johnson's calculations for that mission.
4	Which account would best help a reader understand how segregation shaped Johnson's opportunities before NASA? Compare its emphasis with one other account.	The print profile is most useful because it explains that segregated schools limited opportunities and led Johnson's family to move during the school year. The video focuses on the Friendship 7 mission, while the podcast mentions segregation only briefly.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The print profile emphasizes Johnson's preparation and the educational barriers created by segregation. Its chronological explanation of her schooling, degree, and family's move helps a reader see how she became a mathematician. The museum video emphasizes the danger and precision of the Friendship 7 mission through orbital equations, spacecraft images, and Glenn's request. For understanding that single mission, the video is more effective because its visuals and suspense show why Johnson's calculations mattered.

Accept comparisons that accurately identify each account's emphasis and support claims with details from the passage. For the open task, accept different reasonable judgments if the student explains how the medium and selected details support the judgment.