

Moon Landing Lenses

Compare how three accounts shape a view of one historic event.

ELA.6.R.2.3 "Analyze authors' purpose(s) in multiple accounts of the same event or topic."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details in each account that show what the author chose to focus on. In the margin, write a one- or two-word note about what each set of details makes readers notice.

Three Views of Apollo 11

- ① On July 20, 1969, Apollo 11's lunar module, Eagle, landed in the Sea of Tranquility. Mission control received the message, "Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed." Several hours later, Neil Armstrong climbed down Eagle's ladder and became the first person to walk on the Moon. Buzz Aldrin joined him while Michael Collins orbited above in the command module, Columbia. The astronauts collected rock samples, placed instruments on the surface, and raised a United States flag before returning to Eagle.
- ② At my grandmother's house, six of us crowded around a small television to watch the Moon landing. The picture flickered, and the room grew silent as Neil Armstrong stepped onto the gray ground. My grandmother gripped my hand. Even my uncle, who usually talked during every program, stared at the screen. When Buzz Aldrin came down the ladder, we cheered so loudly that a neighbor knocked on the door. For a few minutes, our living room felt connected to a place 240,000 miles away.
- ③ Behind the televised images, thousands of people helped Apollo 11 reach the Moon. At Mission Control in Houston, flight director Gene Kranz and other controllers watched fuel, communications, and the spacecraft's path during Eagle's landing. Engineers had tested the Saturn V rocket, the world's most powerful rocket at the time, before its July 16 launch. Seamstresses at the International Latex Corporation sewed the spacesuits worn by the astronauts. Across NASA and its contractors, about 400,000 people worked on the Apollo program, though cameras showed only three crew members.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What is the likely purpose of the first account? Use two details from the account to support your answer.

2 What is the likely purpose of the second account? How do the details about the family support that purpose?

3 What is the likely purpose of the third account? Name two groups of people the author includes to support that purpose.

4 How do the first and third accounts use different details to create different views of Apollo 11?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write two two-sentence accounts of Apollo 11 for different purposes. In the first account, help a reader understand what happened. In the second account, draw attention to a group whose work helped make the mission possible, and include two accurate details in each account.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details in each account that show what the author chose to focus on. In the margin, write a one- or two-word note about what each set of details makes readers notice. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the likely purpose of the first account? Use two details from the account to support your answer.	Its purpose is to report key facts and the sequence of the Moon landing. It gives the landing date and place, names the astronauts, and lists actions such as collecting samples and placing instruments.
2	What is the likely purpose of the second account? How do the details about the family support that purpose?	Its purpose is to help readers experience the excitement and shared feelings of watching the landing. Details such as the grandmother gripping a hand, the silent room, and the cheering show emotional reactions.
3	What is the likely purpose of the third account? Name two groups of people the author includes to support that purpose.	Its purpose is to draw attention to the many workers who supported the mission, not only the astronauts. The account includes mission controllers, engineers, and seamstresses.
4	How do the first and third accounts use different details to create different views of Apollo 11?	The first account focuses on the landing and the astronauts' actions, creating a view of the event itself. The third account focuses on preparation and support workers, creating a view of the large team behind the mission.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On July 20, 1969, the lunar module Eagle landed in the Sea of Tranquility. Neil Armstrong stepped onto the Moon, and Buzz Aldrin later joined him. Before the mission, engineers tested the Saturn V rocket for the July 16 launch. During Eagle's landing, controllers in Houston tracked its fuel and path.

Accept purpose statements that are supported by the author's choices of details, organization, and language. Students may use different wording for purposes if they accurately distinguish the factual event account, the personal experience account, and the support-team account.