

One Landing, Three Lenses

How genre and mode shape a historical record.

11.P.AC.3.b “Apply knowledge of how mode and genre impact what kinds of ideas and information are included in texts. (I/C)”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details each source includes, then circle details the passage says it leaves out or cannot provide. In the margin, label each marked detail T, N, or A for transcript, newspaper, or audio interview to show how genre and mode shape the record.

Records of a Moon Landing

- ① On July 20, 1969, Apollo 11’s lunar module Eagle landed on the Moon. People can learn about that landing through texts that serve different purposes. A NASA mission transcript records radio exchanges between astronauts and Mission Control, often with timestamps. It includes short, exact statements such as reports about fuel, altitude, and the landing. The transcript does not pause to explain why the landing mattered to families watching at home. Its documentary format preserves the sequence of decisions, so readers can trace what happened during tense minutes before the landing.
- ② A newspaper article published the next day might also state the landing date and name two moonwalkers, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin. Yet its report would likely add information a transcript leaves out: crowds gathered around televisions, officials’ reactions, and the mission’s place in the Cold War space race. The article could quote a viewer or describe headlines from other cities. This explanatory news genre connects the event to a broad public, but it selects representative reactions rather than recording every radio message from that night.
- ③ Decades later, an audio interview with a person who watched the landing may offer another kind of record. Because listeners hear pauses, tone, and emphasis, the audio mode can make a memory feel immediate. The speaker might describe the room, a parent’s comment, or a personal fear that the mission would fail. Such an oral-history account gives experience and interpretation, not a complete technical log. A museum could place the transcript, newspaper, and audio interview together, allowing visitors to compare verified facts with public response and individual memory.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How do timestamps and short, exact statements fit the purpose of the NASA mission transcript?

2 What information would the newspaper article add that the transcript leaves out, and why would that information fit a news article?

3 Name two sound features the audio interview uses and one kind of information the speaker might share.

4 Which source would be most useful for learning the technical sequence of the landing, and which would be most useful for learning public response? Explain briefly.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose a historical event other than Apollo 11. Write two source plans of 35 to 50 words each for different genres or modes. Name each genre or mode and explain the information it would include and leave out.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details each source includes, then circle details the passage says it leaves out or cannot provide. In the margin, label each marked detail T, N, or A for transcript, newspaper, or audio interview to show how genre and mode shape the record. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do timestamps and short, exact statements fit the purpose of the NASA mission transcript?	They preserve the sequence of mission decisions and help readers trace what happened during the landing.
2	What information would the newspaper article add that the transcript leaves out, and why would that information fit a news article?	It would add public reactions, crowds, officials' responses, and Cold War context because news connects the event to a broad public.
3	Name two sound features the audio interview uses and one kind of information the speaker might share.	It uses pauses, tone, or emphasis. The speaker might share a description of the room, a parent's comment, or a personal fear.
4	Which source would be most useful for learning the technical sequence of the landing, and which would be most useful for learning public response? Explain briefly.	The mission transcript is best for the technical sequence because it records exact radio exchanges and timestamps. The newspaper article is best for public response because it includes crowds, reactions, and quotations.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

News report, print: A report on the December 17, 1903, Wright brothers' flight would give the location, distance, witnesses, and why controlled flight mattered. It might quote townspeople, but it would not record every movement of the aircraft or each brother's private thought. Audio oral history: A listener who saw the flight could describe the wind, the crowd's silence, and a surprised reaction. The speaker's pauses and voice would convey feeling, but the memory could not provide a precise, complete account of the machine's measurements or every test.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect source choices to purpose and audience: the transcript for technical sequence, news for public context, and audio for individual experience. For Part 3, require two contrasting genres or modes with clear, accurate distinctions about included and omitted information.