

Moon Landing Views

Compare two participants' accounts of the same landing.

5.RI.3.B "Analyze multiple accounts of the same event or topic, noting important similarities and differences in the point of view they represent."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read the classroom paraphrases of NASA records. Underline a detail each participant emphasizes. Label each marked detail A or B.

Read and Use the Texts

Account A: Neil Armstrong, landing pilot

As Eagle descended toward the Moon, computer alarms raised a question: could the landing continue? Armstrong later explained that this concern took attention away from evaluating the landing area. Once the descent continued, he searched for a suitable place to land.

Account A, continued

Armstrong flew past a crater and a field of boulders. He chose a smoother area nearby. Near the surface, blowing dust made it difficult to judge sideways motion. His account describes what he could see and the control decisions he made.

Paraphrased from Armstrong's 1969 technical debrief, reproduced in NASA's Apollo Lunar Surface Journal. This is not a direct quotation.

Account B: Charles Duke, radio communicator

Duke was in Mission Control during the same Apollo 11 landing. In a later interview, he remembered the computer alarms as his main concern early in the descent. He did not know their consequences, but guidance specialists did and quickly supported continuing. Later, fuel became his central concern. He watched the spacecraft's progress on a screen while keeping track of the remaining fuel.

Paraphrased from NASA's March 12, 1999 oral-history interview with Duke, pages 12-21 and 12-22. This is not a direct quotation.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1** What event do BOTH accounts describe? Give a detail from each that places it within that event.

- 2** How do the accounts overlap in what seemed important early in the descent?

- 3** Compare what each participant emphasizes later. How does each person's role help explain the difference?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Build an explanation from both accounts.

Compare with evidence

Explain one important similarity and one important difference in the accounts. Support the comparison with details from both A and B, and connect their points of view to their roles.

Evaluate a claim

A reader says, "Different details mean one participant must be wrong." Explain why that conclusion does or does not follow from these accounts.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Read the classroom paraphrases of NASA records. Underline a detail each participant emphasizes. Label each marked detail A or B. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What event do BOTH accounts describe? Give a detail from each that places it within that event.	The Apollo 11 lunar landing. A describes choosing a landing area; B describes monitoring Eagle's descent from Mission Control.
2	How do the accounts overlap in what seemed important early in the descent?	Both describe concern about computer alarms and whether the landing could continue.
3	Compare what each participant emphasizes later. How does each person's role help explain the difference?	Armstrong emphasizes the landing area and flying the craft; Duke emphasizes monitoring progress and fuel from Mission Control. Their different responsibilities direct their attention.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**Possible comparison**

Both participants focus on problems that could affect the landing. Armstrong describes judging the surface while flying. Duke describes monitoring fuel from the ground. Each reports details that mattered to his job.

Possible evaluation

Different emphasis does not by itself show a contradiction. These accounts can add to one another because the participants had different views and responsibilities. A claim of error would need conflicting evidence.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

Primary sources: <https://www.nasa.gov/wp-content/uploads/static/history/alsj/a11/a11.landing.html> (Armstrong technical-debrief comments near mission times 102:42, 102:43 and 102:47) and <https://www.nasa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/dukecm-3-12-99.pdf> (printed pages 12-21-12-22). These are third-person classroom paraphrases of participants' later accounts, not invented eyewitness quotations. A spans two sections but remains one account. Compare emphasis and access to information, not merely grammatical pronouns. The shared event is the landing; the texts do not describe the later moonwalk. Accept supported alternatives. No exact sentence count is required.