

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 These three classroom accounts emphasize different parts of Apollo 11. In each account, underline two details that reveal its focus. Then explain the likely purpose using those details in the questions below. Account 2 is fictional, not historical testimony.

Three Views of Apollo 11

- ① Account 1 - an event summary. On July 20, 1969, Eagle landed in the Sea of Tranquility. Several hours later, Neil Armstrong stepped onto the Moon; Buzz Aldrin followed him. Michael Collins remained in lunar orbit in Columbia. The surface crew collected lunar samples and deployed scientific instruments. On July 24, the crew returned to Earth and splashed down in the Pacific Ocean. This classroom summary uses Sarah A. Loff, NASA, Apollo 11 Mission Overview: nasa.gov/history/apollo-11-mission-overview/.
- ② Account 2 - a fictional family recollection. At my grandmother's house, six of us crowded around a small television to watch the astronauts' Moon walk. 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 the Moon. The family and reactions are invented for this classroom account.

- ③ Account 3 - the work behind a safe return. Apollo 11's return depended on a parachute system developed for Apollo missions. NASA engineers designed that system, and contractor teams tested it by dropping model command modules. Seamstresses carefully sewed the parachutes. That work helped slow the returning capsule before it reached the ocean. The safe arrival depended on skilled people on Earth as well as the astronauts. This classroom account summarizes John Uri, NASA, Throwback to Apollo Parachute Testing: nasa.gov/history/throwback-to-apollo-parachute-testing/.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 What is the likely purpose of Account 1? Support your answer with two details.

- 2 What is the likely purpose of the fictional Account 2? How do two family details support it?

- 3 What is the likely purpose of Account 3? Name two groups and explain how their work supports that purpose.

4 How do Accounts 1 and 3 use different details to create different views of the same mission?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write two separate two-sentence accounts of Apollo 11, using facts supplied here. First help a reader understand the mission events. Then emphasize one group whose work supported the return. Include two accurate details in each account.

Account A - explain the events

Write two sentences using two accurate mission details from Account 1. Organize them in a sequence a reader can follow.

Account B - highlight support work

Write two sentences using two accurate details from Account 3. Make the contribution of engineers, testing teams, or seamstresses the focus.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

These three classroom accounts emphasize different parts of Apollo 11. In each account, underline two details that reveal its focus. Then explain the likely purpose using those details in the questions below. Account 2 is fictional, not historical testimony. 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 Account 1? Support your answer with two details.	To report the mission sequence: it gives the lunar landing date and place, surface activities, and the date and location of the return to Earth.
2	What is the likely purpose of the fictional Account 2? How do two family details support it?	To convey imagined excitement and connection. The grandmother grips a hand, the room falls silent, and the family cheers. These reactions create an emotional view, not a factual family record.
3	What is the likely purpose of Account 3? Name two groups and explain how their work supports that purpose.	To draw attention to work behind the safe return. Engineers designed the parachute system, testing teams dropped model capsules, and seamstresses sewed the parachutes. These details show contributions beyond the crew.
4	How do Accounts 1 and 3 use different details to create different views of the same mission?	Account 1 follows the crew's main events from landing to return. Account 3 explains preparation by people on Earth, emphasizing the team effort that made the return possible.

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On July 20, 1969, Eagle landed in the Sea of Tranquility. Four days later, Apollo 11's crew splashed down in the Pacific Ocean.

The engineers behind Apollo's parachute system helped make a safe return possible. They designed the system that slowed the capsule before it reached the ocean.

Accept supported purpose statements that connect choices of details to the view each account creates. Account 2 is explicitly invented, so do not treat it as a verified witness account. Account 3 concerns the Apollo parachute system used for returns, not a parachute landing on the Moon. Two separate model paragraphs demonstrate the two requested purposes. Students may emphasize any named support group if both details are supported.