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 described podcast centers on Johnson's later career: Mercury and Apollo work, Space Shuttle planning, and recognition. The host reports that she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015 and that Hidden Figures brought wider attention in 2016. Launch sounds and film dialogue give a celebratory feel; segregation appears only in the early-career introduction.

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

Read this supplied print account: “Katherine Johnson’s preparation included mathematics classes and a degree in math and French.” Teacher now delivers this separate classroom audio account: “For Friendship 7, John Glenn asked Katherine Johnson to check the computer’s calculations by hand. Her careful work mattered for his safe return.” Listen without looking at the audio script; teacher repeats on request. In two sentences, compare a detail emphasized in the actual print account with a detail in the heard account. Then retain the original four-or-five-sentence comparison of two described accounts, including a detail from each and a justified judgment. Use a separate sheet if needed.

ANSWER KEY # One Life, Three Lenses

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)

Actual-account comparison: The print account emphasizes Johnson's schooling and preparation through her degree. The heard account emphasizes a demanding mission and careful checking for Glenn's safe return.

Described-account comparison: 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. Teacher actually reads the supplied newly authored classroom audio account after learners read the print account, keeping the audio script out of sight during listening if possible. Require observed emphasis from both actual accounts, separate from the original descriptive comparison. Neither classroom script is a Johnson quotation or a supplied museum/podcast recording. The award sentence conservatively states receipt in 2015 without the incorrect NASA awarding authority.