

Barack Obama's Speech

Lexile: 1030

Word count: 466

Grade: 6

Genre: Speeches

Vocabulary: Accomplished, Fundamentally, Ingenuity, Tyranny, Obstacles, Creed, Abolitionists, Blazed, Immigrants, Pioneers

Introduction: This speech was delivered by senator Obama at the Nashua High School, New Hampshire, on January 8, 2008. This was on the occasion of his winning the election in NH.



1. "You know, a few weeks ago, no one imagined that we'd have accomplished what we did here tonight in New Hampshire. No one could have imagined it.
2. And with your voices and your votes, you made it clear that at this moment, in this election, there is something happening in America.
3. And whether we are rich or poor, black or white, Latino or Asian, whether we hail from Iowa or New Hampshire, Nevada or South Carolina, we are ready to take this country in a fundamentally new direction.
4. That's what's happening in America right now; change is what's happening in America.
5. We can stop sending our children to schools with corridors of shame and start putting them on a pathway to success.

6. We can stop talking about how great teachers are and start rewarding them for their greatness by giving them more pay and more support. We can do this with our new majority.
7. We can harness the ingenuity of farmers and scientists, citizens and entrepreneurs to free this nation from the tyranny of oil and save our planet from a point of no return.
8. All of the candidates in this race share these goals. All of the candidates in this race have good ideas and all are patriots who serve this country honorably.
9. We know the battle ahead will be long. But always remember that, no matter what obstacles stand in our way, nothing can stand in the way of the power of millions of voices calling for change.
10. For when we have faced down impossible odds, when we've been told we're not ready or that we shouldn't try or that we can't, generations of Americans have responded with a simple creed that sums up the spirit of a people: Yes, we can. Yes, we can. Yes, we can.
11. It was a creed written into the founding documents that declared the destiny of a nation: Yes, we can.
12. It was whispered by slaves and abolitionists as they blazed a trail towards freedom through the darkest of nights: Yes, we can.
13. It was sung by immigrants as they struck out from distant shores and pioneers who pushed westward against an unforgiving wilderness: Yes, we can.
14. It was the call of workers who organized, women who reached for the ballot, a president who chose the moon as our new frontier, and a king who took us to the mountaintop and pointed the way to the Promised Land: Yes, we can, to justice and equality.
15. Yes, we can, to opportunity and prosperity. Yes, we can heal this nation. Yes, we can repair this world. Yes, we can.
16. And, together, we will begin the next great chapter in the American story, with three words that will ring from coast to coast, from sea to shining sea: Yes, we can.”

1. RI 6.1

Which quote of Obama shows his deep respect and care for his teachers? Drag and drop a paragraph from the speech.

We can stop talking about how great teachers are and start rewarding them for their greatness by giving them more pay and more support. We can do this with our new majority.

2. RI 6.2

What is the purpose of the speech? Select two correct options.

The purpose of the speech is to motivate the citizens of America to bring about a positive change.

The purpose of the speech is to encourage the citizens of America to unite to bring a change in the country.

The purpose of the speech is to motivate the people of NH to educate themselves and send their children to school.

The purpose of the speech is to inform the citizens of America about his political views and forthcoming elections.

3. RI 6.4

Match the words with their synonyms.

A	B
Accomplished	Skillful
Fundamentally	Basically
Ingenuity	Cleverness
Tyranny	Domination
Obstacles	Impediments

4. RI 6.5

How does Paragraph 10 contribute to the overall idea of the speech?

Paragraph 10 does not contribute in any substantial way to the overall idea of the speech.

Paragraph 10 describes the belief of the immigrants who landed in America and made it their home.

Paragraph 10 describes the spirit of Obama who emerges successfully as a leader of all Americans.

Paragraph 10 describes the undying spirit of the Americans to emerge out of all difficulties positively.

5. RI 6.6

What text evidence shows the reader that Obama thinks that though the road to change will be long, nothing can stop the people from bringing about the change? Drag and drop a paragraph from the speech.

We know the battle ahead will be long. But always remember that, no matter what obstacles stand in our way, nothing can stand in the way of the power of millions of voices calling for change.

6. L.6.1A

Which example incorrectly uses a pronoun?

Barack Obama is the first African American President of the United states. He was born in Hawaii.

Barack Obama's mother Stanley Dunham was born in Kansas, he homeschooled Barack when he was young.

Barack Obama's speech 'Yes We Can' is very famous. It was viewed 10 million times on YouTube in its first month.

Barack Obama became very popular amongst people in the US. In December 2008 and in 2012, Time magazine named him its Person of the Year.

7. L.6.2B

A. Which word in the sentence is spelt incorrectly? Write the word in the text area given below. Capitalize the first letter of the word.

“Obama is the fourth U.S. president to be awarded the Nobel Piece Prize and the third to become a Nobel laureate while in office.”

Piece

B. Write the correct spelling of the answer to Part A.

Peace

8. L.6.6

What does the word *abolitionists* mean, as used in Paragraph 12?

Abolitionist is a person who favors slavery.

Abolitionist is a person who opposes slavery.

Abolitionist is a person who propagates slavery.

Abolitionist is a person who writes about slavery.

9. W.6.1B

Which part of the speech supports the fact that Obama thinks that everyone, irrespective of class or nationality, wants to take the country in a new direction? Write your answer in the text area given below.

In Paragraph 3, Obama says that whether we are rich or poor, black or white, Latino or Asian, whether we hail from Iowa or New Hampshire, Nevada or South Carolina, we are ready to take this country in a fundamentally new direction. He believe that everyone, irrespective of his/her nationality or class, is looking for a change in America.

RI.6.6

Why do you think Obama often uses the words ‘we’ and ‘our’ in his speech?

Obama often uses the words ‘we’ and ‘our’ to expand his speech.

Obama often uses the words ‘we’ and ‘our’ in his speech to play with words.

Obama often uses the words 'we' and 'our' in his speech to show love and affection.

Obama often uses the words 'we' and 'our' in his speech to bridge the gap between him and the audience.