

JFK's Inaugural Address
Graphic Organizer Teacher Key

Section A: Opening

- Discover 6–7 Key Words in Section A.
- Use the Key Words to write a statement summarizing the section.
- To show your understanding of the section, rewrite the summary in your own words.
- Use evidence from the text to answer the questions.

. . . Let the word go forth from this time and place, to friend and foe alike, that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans . . . unwilling to witness or permit the slow undoing of those human rights to which this nation has always been committed, and to which we are committed today at home and around the world.

Let every nation know . . . that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty.

Key Words:

Americans, human rights, committed, survival, success, liberty

Summary with Author's Words:

Americans are committed to the survival and success of human rights and liberty.

Your Summary:

Americans will do anything necessary to ensure all the human rights of all people of the world are protected.

According to the opening of this address, what human right is threatened?

According to this document, liberty is the human life being threatened.

To whom is JFK speaking?

JFK is speaking to friends and foes of America in every nation.

Section B: “This much we pledge—and more.”

JFK makes several pledges for America during his address.

For each pledge listed, identify:

- What the pledge is
- To whom it is made

To those old allies whose cultural and spiritual origins we share, we pledge the loyalty of faithful friends. United there is little we cannot do in a host of cooperative ventures. Divided there is little we can do—for we dare not meet a powerful challenge at odds and split asunder.

Pledge:

loyalty of faithful friends

Pledged to whom:

old allies that share America’s cultural and spiritual origins

Describe the working relationship between America and her “old allies”:

We should work together cooperatively to achieve more than we could achieved separately.

To those new states whom we welcome to the ranks of the free, we pledge our word that one form of colonial control shall not have passed away merely to be replaced by a far more iron tyranny. We shall not always expect to find them supporting our view. But we shall always hope to find them strongly supporting their own freedom—and to remember that, in the past, those who foolishly sought power by riding the back of the tiger ended up inside.

Pledge: *America’s word that colonial control is not replaced with tyranny*

Pledged to whom:

new states (Alaska, Hawaii)

What is expected from the citizens of the “new states,” and what might that look like?

Citizens are expected to support their own freedom through participation in the government.

What is meant by the expression “those who foolishly sought power by riding the back of the tiger ended up inside”?

You may think you are more powerful than a tiger, but a tiger is powerful and unpredictable. He will throw you off his back and eat you when you least expect it.

<p>To those people in the huts and villages of half the globe struggling to break the bonds of mass misery, we pledge our best efforts to help them help themselves . . . because it is right. If a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich.</p>	<p>Pledge: <i>best efforts to help the poor help themselves because it is the right thing to do</i></p> <p>Pledged to whom: <i>people in huts and villages of half the world struggling with mass misery; the poor</i></p> <p>According to JFK, why is it important for America to help the poor? <i>It is important because it is the right thing to do. If we can't help the many that are poor, than we cannot save the few who are rich.</i></p>
<p>To our sister republics south of our border, we offer a special pledge—to convert our good words into good deeds—in a new alliance for progress—to assist free men and free governments in casting off the chains of poverty . . .</p>	<p>Pledge: <i>to assist free men and free governments to rise out of poverty; to act on our words</i></p> <p>Pledged to whom: <i>Sister republics south of the border; Mexico, Central America, South America; all neighbors of the United States in the Western Hemisphere.</i></p>
<p>To that world assembly of sovereign states, the United Nations, our last best hope in an age where the instruments of war have far outpaced the instruments of peace, we renew our pledge of support . . . to strengthen its shield of the new and the weak—and to enlarge the area in which its writ may run.</p>	<p>Pledge: <i>to support the United Nations as it protects new and weak governments and people, and make its area of influence greater</i></p> <p>Pledged to whom: <i>United Nations</i></p> <p>This pledge describes a race between two things. What are those things, and which one is winning? The race is between instruments of war and instruments of peace; instruments of war are winning.</p>

Finally, to those nations who would make themselves our adversary, we offer not a pledge but a request: that both sides begin anew the quest for peace, before the dark powers of destruction unleashed by science engulf all humanity in planned or accidental self-destruction.

We dare not tempt them with weakness. For only when our arms are sufficient beyond doubt can we be certain beyond doubt that they will never be employed.

Pledge:

a quest for peace

Pledged to whom:

enemies of America

Explain what is meant by “the dark powers of destruction unleashed by science engulf all humanity in planned or accidental self-destruction”?

Scientists have built weapons that can destroy humanity. This could happen by accident, or could be planned attacks.

Section C: Moving Forward in the World

- Discover 10–12 Key Words in Section C.
- Use the Key Words to write a statement summarizing the section.
- To show your understanding of the section, rewrite the summary in your own words.
- Use evidence from the text to answer the questions.

So let us begin anew—remembering on both sides that civility is not a sign of weakness, and sincerity is always subject to proof. Let us never negotiate out of fear. But let us never fear to negotiate. Let both sides explore what problems unite us instead of belaboring those problems which divide us.

. . . Let both sides seek to invoke the wonders of science instead of its terrors. Together let us explore the stars, conquer the deserts, eradicate disease, tap the ocean depths and encourage the arts and commerce.

Let both sides unite to heed in all corners of the earth the command of Isaiah—to “undo the heavy burdens . . . (and) let the oppressed go free.”

And if a beachhead of cooperation may push back the jungle of suspicion, let both sides join in creating a new endeavor, not a new balance of power, but a new world of law, where the strong are just and the weak secure and the peace preserved.

Key Words:

civility, weakness, sincerity, proof, negotiate, unite, new, just, secure, peace

Summary with Author’s Words:

Our world should unite in civility and sincerity by negotiation to secure a new, just peace.

Your Summary:

Countries should have honest conversations and compromise to solve problems and encourage growth and security for everyone.

Section D: Moving Forward as a Country

- Discover 7–8 Key Words in Section D.
- Use the Key Words to write a statement summarizing the section.
- To show your understanding of the section, rewrite the summary in your own words.
- Use evidence from the text to answer the questions.

In your hands, my fellow citizens . . . will rest the final success or failure of our course. Since this country was founded, each generation of Americans has been summoned to give testimony to its national loyalty. The graves of young Americans who answered the call to service surround the globe.

Now the trumpet summons us again . . . to bear the burden of a long twilight struggle, year in and year out, “rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation”—a struggle against the common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty, disease and war itself.

Can we forge against these enemies a grand and global alliance, North and South, East and West, that can assure a more fruitful life for all mankind? Will you join in that historic effort?

Key Words:

fellow citizens, national loyalty, service, summons, struggle, alliance, effort

Summary with Author’s Words:

As fellow citizens we will show national loyalty and answer the summons to service with our allies against the struggles of the world.

Your Summary:

We all need to work together and do our part to make life better for everyone.

How has each generation of Americans given testimony to its national loyalty?

The graves of young Americans around the globe are evidence of loyalty through sacrifice.

Section E: In Closing

- Discover 7–8 Key Words in Section E.
- Use the Key Words to write a statement summarizing the section.
- To show your understanding of the section, rewrite the summary in your own words.
- Use evidence from the text to answer the questions.

And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.

My fellow citizens of the world: ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man.

Finally, whether you are citizens of America or citizens of the world, ask of us here the same high standards of strength and sacrifice which we ask of you. With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth God's work must truly be our own.

Key Words:

fellow Americans, do, citizens of the world, together, freedom, strength, sacrifice, lead, work

Summary with Author's Words:

Fellow citizens of America and of the world, what together can we do, how strong can we be, what sacrifices will we make to lead the world to freedom?

Your Summary:

Instead of taking all the time, we should instead ask how we can serve our country and our world, not only for ourselves, but for others.

According to President Kennedy, whose work is this and what will be the reward for service?

the work is our own; the reward a good conscience

Final Activity

Each section of JFK's Inaugural Address is based on a theme. Identify the theme of each section using evidence from the text to support your ideas.