



T E A C H E R S G U I D E

Press Conference

Background

NASA holds a press conference after every mission. Each press conference lasts approximately one hour and covers general information and specific mission data that is presented by the crew and Mission Control staff. Tapes of press conferences are available from your regional NASA Teacher Resource Center. This information is also available at NASA Spacelink on the Internet.

Post-visit activities are vitally important to the success of the overall Challenger mission. They provide an opportunity for the students to reflect on their activities at the Challenger Learning Center. Also, the teacher can use this time to assess the students' knowledge of key concepts and relate them to other curriculum materials.

On the day after your Challenger mission, conduct a debriefing session. Each team should relate its activities while at the Challenger Learning Center and describe how these activities were essential to the success of the entire mission.

Skills

- Writing to inform
- Public speaking
- Self-reflection

Objectives

Students will:

- Prepare a statement about their duties during the mission.
- Prepare answers to specific questions about those duties.
- Create a set of criteria for an informative press conference.

Overview

After a Challenger mission, students will conduct a debriefing session. In teams, students will prepare reports in the form of a press conference that reflect their activities while at

the Challenger Learning Center and they will describe how their activities were essential to the success of the entire mission.

Key Questions

- What happened at the Challenger Learning Center?
- What part of the Learning Center mission were you responsible for? How successful was it?
- How can you express personal ideas and experiences to others?

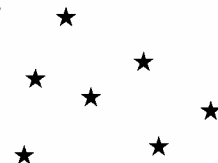
Key Concept

- Students use visual, written, and verbal communications to express their ideas.

Materials & Preparation

- 1 Video camera and monitor
- 2 long tables
- Decorations
- Costumes
- Props
- Panel of Crew Representatives: (8 students, 1 from each team)
- Panel of Reporters: 6-8 students or parents and administrators
- Camera Crew: 2-4 students

1. Assign each crew from the mission a representative to speak on the panel.
2. Each crew is given some sample questions that might be asked. They must come to consensus with their answers.
3. Each crew elects a recorder to write the crew's responses to the questions.
4. Each crew will also write a prepared statement regarding the mission. This will be reported before the questions from the panel begin. Information for this statement may be taken from the DATA LOGS.
5. Select a panel of news reporters. Give each of them a set of sample questions for each crew.



6. Reporters are required to write at least one additional question, which is not included in any of the samples. These are to be reviewed by the moderator (teacher) before the press conference.
7. Ask each reporter to be prepared to clarify his/her questions during the conference.

Press Day

1. Select a camera crew (optional). Assign the camera crew the task of setting up the tables and chairs and reviewing good filming techniques.
2. Arrange the monitor so that the students in the audience can see it.
3. The moderator starts the press conference by introducing the crew members.
4. Each crew representative gives the prepared report.
5. The reporters select from their questions one at a time. They must address the person to whom the question is directed. The representative of the crew responds before another question is asked. The moderator reserves the right to clarify a question or an answer.
6. The students in the audience may be required to agree or disagree or clarify their representative's response.

Management

This activity will take several class periods to prepare and complete depending on the level of sophistication.

Be sure students speak facing the camera.

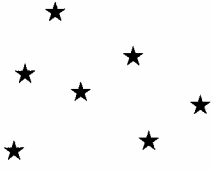
Discuss other public speaking tips as desired.

Reflection & Discussion

1. List some ways in which knowing how to use science, math, technology, and communication helps the mission.
2. List some ways in which the simulated mission was like real life.
3. What did you learn from the mission:
 - about yourself?
 - about teamwork?
 - about problem-solving?
 - about science?
4. Did the mission give you any help in deciding a career or job for the future?
5. How did you reach consensus on making decisions?
6. Was the mission successful?
7. What happened at the Learning Center?
8. What were your roles and responsibilities?
9. How did your team contribute to the success of the mission?

Transfer & Extension

1. Prepare this press conference and submit it to a local TV station or newspaper.
2. Invite other classes, parents, and the principal to learn about your experience.
3. Prepare the press conference like a news story for television or as a newspaper special feature in the style section.
4. Create a multimedia press conference for your band, scouts, class assignments, family events, etc.



Press Conference

Student Procedures

1. Fill in the blanks with your specific team's information. Write this statement in your own words and use it during the Press Conference. Give this form to your teacher to file. Feel free to add more information if you think it is important.

As members of the _____ team, our purpose was to _____

_____. Our responsibilities included _____

(Names) _____ and _____ began as Mission Controllers, and _____ and _____ began in the Spacecraft. Spacecraft personnel followed task cards to carry out important activities. Mission controllers supervised and recorded data from all activity in the Spacecraft.

We were able to complete (some, most, all) _____ of our tasks. Our most important accomplishment was _____

The data generated on our mission will be analyzed for potential close encounters or for future needs by the spacecraft. This data is also important because it adds to our knowledge about space travel and

Reflection & Discussion

1. What have we learned from this mission that will help us make important decisions about our own planet?
2. What would you suggest be added to the next mission as an important improvement?
3. What was the most exciting part of your mission?