

Deval Patrick's Acceptance Speech

7th Grade SPEECH

This is part of a speech by Deval Patrick when he was elected governor on November 8th, 2006. The text of this speech is in the public domain.

Today, November 7, 2006, the people of Massachusetts chose by a decisive margin to take their government back.

This was not a victory just for me. This was not a victory just for Democrats. This was a victory for hope.

And we won it the old-fashioned way – we earned it. Nearly two years ago, we started on this journey, and by coming to you, where you live and work, by listening to you, by showing that we could disagree with each other without being disagreeable, by asking you to put your cynicism down, by refusing to build myself up by tearing anybody else down, by challenging you to see your stake in your neighbor's dreams and struggles as well as your own, we built what history will record is the broadest and best-organized grassroots organization this Commonwealth has ever seen.

Now I ask you to look around. Look around, especially those of you who have never been a part of a campaign. Every kind of person is here. You come from every corner of the Commonwealth. You come from great wealth and no wealth. You walk and you use wheelchairs. Democrats and Independents and Republicans are here. You are liberal and moderate and conservative.

You see in common how broken our civic life and how fractured our communities are. You see in common that the poor are in terrible shape and the middle class are one month away from being poor. And you know that government by gimmick and sound bite isn't working. You know that we deserve better and we are better than that. And for a chance at a better and more hopeful future, you built bridges some of you never thought could be built across all kinds of differences -- and then you crossed them.

You are business executives looking for a better margin and artists looking to be valued. You are college kids in search of a career and high school drop-outs looking for a way forward. You are young mothers trying to balance work and child care and grandmothers trying to hold on to the family home. You are farmers and fishing families wondering whether there is a future in livelihoods that built this Commonwealth and union members wondering why there is so little work when there is so much to do. And the magic is that you have come together not just for your own dreams and your own aspirations, but for each others'.

This has never been my campaign. It has always been yours. The real heroes here are the thousands of you, here and at home, many who have never been involved before in a political campaign, who set aside what you were doing to get involved, who confronted your despair about the direction our Commonwealth has been heading in, and decided to take responsibility for her future.

Analyze and Infer Author's Point of View and Purpose - Speech

Questions developed by Center for Urban Education for use by Chicago Public Schools 2008-2009.

Choose the best answer for each question.

1. How does Deval Patrick want the listeners to feel?

- a. relieved
- b. responsible
- c. friendly
- d. liberal

3. Why does he say, "This has never been my campaign. It has always been yours."

- a. to thank people
- b. to get people to feel part of government
- c. to get people to vote
- d. to tell people to work

2. What is the reason he made the speech?

- a. He was governor.
- b. The election was over.
- c. He wanted people to work together.
- d. He was worried about the economy.

4. Why does he say, "you built bridges"?

- a. People worked together.
- b. They built bridges.
- c. There was a crossroads.
- d. They needed to change the state.

5. *Write your own answer to this question. What does Deval Patrick want people to understand because of the speech?*

TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

Answers: *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	b	c	b	a

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.

Answers will vary but should include that they need to work together with him to have a better future.