

Compare and Contrast

Harold Washington's Acceptance Speech – April 12th, 1983

Chicago, IL

8th Grade Nonfiction

As transcribed by Hannah Lantos, from <http://www.chicagopublicradio.org/Content.aspx?audioID=15929>.

The following excerpt is from the speech that Mayor Harold Washington made when he won the election in 1983.

Tonight we are here. Tonight we are here to celebrate a resounding victory. We, we have fought a good fight. We have finished our course. And we have kept the faith.

We fought that good fight. We fought it, with unseasoned weapons and with a phalanx of people who mostly have never been involved in a political campaign before. This has truly been a pilgrimage. Our government will be moving forward as well, including more people. And more kinds of people, than any government in the history of Chicago. Today... today... today, Chicago has seen the bright daybreak for this city and for perhaps this entire country. The whole nation is watching as Chicago is so powerful in this! Oh yeah, yeah, they're watching. They're watching.

Out of the crucible... Out of the crucible of this city's most trying election, carried on the tide of the most massive voter turnout in Chicago's history. Blacks. Whites. Hispanics. Jews. Gentiles. Protestant and Catholics of all stripes. Have joined hands to form a new democratic coalition. And... and to begin in this place a new democratic movement.

The talents and dreams of our citizens and neighborhoods will nourish our government the way it should be cherished and feed into the moving river of mankind. And we have kept the faith in ourselves as decent, caring people who gather together as a part of something greater than themselves. We never stopped believing that we were a part of something good and something that had never happened before.

We intend to revitalize and rebuild this city. To open its doors and be certain that its babies are healthy! And its old people are fed and well-housed. We intend, we intend that our city will grow again and bring prosperity to ALL of its citizens. We have been victorious. But I am mindful that there are many other friends and neighbors who were not a part of our campaign. But that's alright! That's alright! That's alright! You never get 'em all! That's why we have a democracy. Because there are many opinions in a city as diverse and multi-ethnic as the city of Chicago.

To those who supported me, I offer my deepest thanks. I will initiate your reforms. But I charge you... I charge each and every one of you to rededicate your efforts to heal the divisions that have plagued us. Each of us must reach out, in open arms. Together we will overcome our problems, and restore Chicago to its proper position as one of the most dynamic cities in all the world!

Directions: Choose the best answer for each question.

1. How is the election that Harold Washington won in 1983 like the 2008 Presidential election?

- a. It was easy to win.
- b. It was a time of great change.
- c. It was a surprise.
- d. It was not a popular choice.

2. How is Chicago different from the time of Harold Washington's speech?

- a. It is not very different.
- b. The job of mayor has changed a lot.
- c. The city has many more people.
- d. Being mayor is easier.

3. How do you compare one person with another?

- a. You look for ways they are different.
- b. You look for changes they made.
- c. You look at their traits and actions.
- d. You tell how they look.

4. How are being mayor of Chicago and being President of the United States alike?

- a. They need to get re-elected.
- b. The President is more powerful.
- c. The mayor has to get people to support him.
- d. They have to make important decisions.

5. *Write your own answer to this question.*

How are Barack Obama and Harold Washington alike?

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	a	c	d

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

5. Students may note that they are both African American. They also may note that they are important leaders or other analyses.