

## Claire's Excerpt

In Kennedy's address to the nation, a historical analysis of the events in the situation, and an oral interview with a member of the Marine Corps during the Cuban Missile Crisis, the theme of the president's stability persisted.

### 1. Consider Artifacts

Claire identifies the primary source, her oral interview, and her research.

Before addressing the Soviets and Cubans, Kennedy makes a promise to his people: "Our unswerving objective, therefore, must be to prevent the use of these missiles against this or any other country and to secure their withdrawal or elimination from the Western Hemisphere" (Kennedy). This promise is sincere, yet formal and comprehensible, and prompted the American people to trust in him as both the president and as an ordinary citizen of the United States. Yet for over a week,

### 2. Construct a Thesis

This is merely an excerpt of Claire's multipage paper, but it nevertheless presents a clear goal: to give evidence of Kennedy's strength during the crisis.

Kennedy and his Executive Committee of the National Security Council (ExComm), a committee dedicated to helping Kennedy overcome the crisis, had debated about which option to choose. If the air raid were to be used against them, the invasion could result in many deaths, and an action against Berlin could lead to nuclear war. Although Kennedy wanted to appear steadfast and strong, "...he was also very concerned that the crisis would escalate out of control" (Munton and Welch, 2007).

### 3. Gather Evidence

Claire quotes from all three of her sources: the interview, the speech, and research material.

After considering many options and undergoing almost two weeks of debate, it became obvious that the strongest peaceful option was to initiate a naval blockade surrounding Cuba. "All ships attempting to enter Cuba were to be stopped and searched for missiles and related military material" (Phelps and Lehman, 2005). Kennedy's main hope was that "...the blockade most likely would not trigger immediate war" (Hanes, Hanes, and Baker, 2004). The same authors suggest that the strength that Kennedy demonstrated in choosing his method of action continued when he learned that "the Soviets were using the missiles to test his will." In order to pass this test of strength and willpower, Kennedy resolved to broadcast a national speech to explain the crisis to Americans, Soviets and Cubans.

### 4. Organize

Claire has chosen to present historical material first and then color it with snippets of her interview.

As a father, husband, and son, Mr. Hayden could relate to the fearful American people, but as a member of the air force he had a greater understanding of the conflict. During Kennedy's address regarding the Cuban Missile Crisis, Mr. Hayden was "sitting there with [his] two small children," and he remembers thinking, "they might not grow up, but there is no place to go." Even though Mr. Hayden experienced the war in the marine corps, he remembers feeling "more tense having come back from the war to the civilian life with [his] wife and children sitting there than [he] ever was in any confrontation that [he] ever had anywhere in the world as a US marine because it was just a different situation." Fortunately for America, the Russians made a major mistake: they recognized that Kennedy was young and "had only been

## 5. Draw Conclusions

Claire sums up the point of this section with another quote from her research.

in office for two years,” so they “thought that they could bully him, but the counsel that he got from the secretary of defense and also from his military commanders was pretty solid and that was an extreme benefit to Kennedy and the entire United States during the crisis.” Throughout the entire speech, Kennedy “consistently identifies himself as the one who [is] handling the situation” (Long and Swett, 2012).

## Claire’s Sources

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