

Directions: [Domestic Policy]

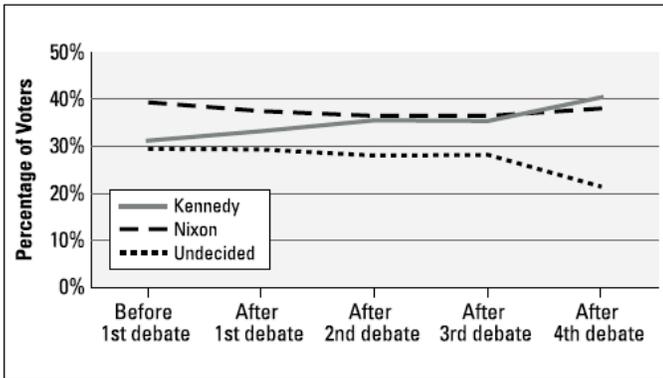
- A. Draw a spectrum like the one below using a whole page in your notebook. Label the page Domestic Policy.
- B. As a group, discuss Documents A-F as they apply to the criteria for evaluating presidents. Place an annotation for each document on the spectrum in a location based on whether it shows that Kennedy is great, not great or in between.
- C. Each annotation should include these four components:
 1. the name of the document,
 2. the criteria it applies to (administrative skills, credibility, crisis management, economic management, foreign affairs, performance within context of times, public persuasion, pursued justice for all, relations with Congress & vision setting),
 3. an explanation of why you placed it where you did and
 4. any content terms if they apply (including, in no particular order, “Kennedy style,” “best & the brightest,” tax cuts, civil rights, Sputnik, and Neil Armstrong).

Not So Great

Great



**Document A:
How the 1960 Presidential Debates
Influenced Voters**



Source: *Broadcasting* 59(19): 1960.

**Document B:
Inaugural Address, 1961**

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 . . .

Now the trumpet summons us again—not as a call to bear arms, though arms we need—not as a call to battle, though embattled we are—but a call to bear the burden of a long twilight struggle, . . . a struggle against the common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty, disease and war itself . . .

I do not shrink from this responsibility—I welcome it . . . And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country. —John F. Kennedy

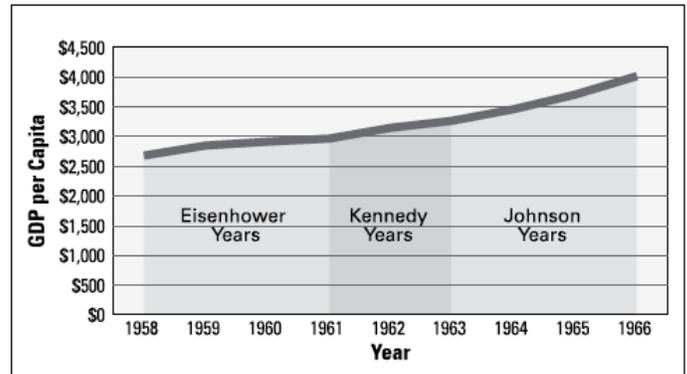
**Document C:
Landing on the Moon, 1969**



I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the earth.

—John F. Kennedy, 1961

**Document D:
Economic Growth, 1958–1966**



Source: *Historical Statistics of the United States*, 2006.

**Document E:
Critique on Civil Rights**

The Kennedy Administration has done with Negro citizens what it has done with a vast number of Americans: it has charmed them. It has intrigued them. Every seventy-two hours it has delighted them. On the Negro question it has smoothed [ointment] on a stinging burn even though for a moment (or for perhaps a year) it cannot do anything about a broken pelvis. It has patted a head even though it could not bind up a joint . . .

Experienced observers know that snags have developed, that changes have had to be ordered . . .

It is plain [that] the civil rights legislative line [has been] abandoned [by this administration].

—Roy Wilkins, executive director of the NAACP, 1961

**Document F:
National Address on Civil Rights, 1963**

The heart of the question is whether all Americans are to be afforded equal rights and equal opportunities, whether we are going to treat our fellow Americans as we want to be treated . . .

One hundred years of delay have passed since President Lincoln freed the slaves, yet their heirs . . . are not fully free. They are not yet freed from the bonds of injustice. They are not yet freed from social and economic oppression. And this Nation, for all its hopes and all its boasts, will not be fully free until all its citizens are free.

—John F. Kennedy

Directions: [Foreign Policy]

- D. Draw a spectrum like the one from before using a whole page in your notebook. Label the page Foreign Policy.
- E. As a group, discuss Documents G-L as they apply to the criteria for evaluating presidents. Place an annotation for each document on the spectrum in a location based on whether it shows that Kennedy is great, not great or in between.
- F. Each annotation should include these four components:
 5. the name of the document,
 6. the criteria it applies to (administrative skills, credibility, crisis management, economic management, foreign affairs, performance within context of times, public persuasion, pursued justice for all, relations with Congress & vision),
 7. an explanation of why you placed it where you did and
 8. any content terms if they apply (including ExCom, quarantine, hotline, and Alliance for Progress).

**Document G:
The Bay of Pigs, 1961**

I not only could not stifle controversy among your readers—I welcome it. This Administration intends to be candid about its errors; for, as a wise man once said:

“An error doesn’t become a mistake until you refuse to correct it.” We intend to accept full responsibility for our errors; and we expect you to point them out when we miss them.

Without debate, without criticism, no Administration and no country can succeed—and no republic can survive.

—John F. Kennedy, from “The President and the Press,” given to the American Newspaper Publishers Association, New York City, April 27, 1961

**Document H:
Cuban Missile Crisis Address to the Nation**

I have directed that the following initial steps be taken immediately:

To halt this offensive buildup a strict quarantine on all offensive military equipment under shipment to Cuba is being initiated. All ships of any kind bound for Cuba from whatever nation or port will, if found to contain cargoes of offensive weapons, be turned back...

I have directed the Armed Forces to prepare for any eventualities; and I trust that in the interest of both the Cuban people and the Soviet technicians at the sites, the hazards to all concerned of continuing this threat will be recognized.

- John F. Kennedy, October 22nd, 1962

**Document I:
Letter to the Editor of *Time* Magazine**

Sir: Essentially, President Kennedy’s action with respect to Cuba is a declaration of war, yet a declaration in which the opportunity to make the surprise move, to take the initiative, is ineptly left to the enemy. It is a prime example of the half measures that are so disastrous in the field of international affairs.

By calling for a limited blockade, the President is in no manner harming the Castro regime or effectively eliminating its offensive capabilities. Yet once again, he is handing the Russians a huge advantage—the opportunity to take the initiative, to choose the time, place and form of a new crisis . . .

This pathetic situation would not exist today had the president acted courageously, and staged a rapid, forceful and decisive invasion of Cuba, presenting Russia with a *fait accompli*.

—E. G. E. Embiricos, Warren G. Heller, Tom Emerson, and George A. Gratsos, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Document J:
Cuban Missile Crisis Political Cartoon**



**Document K:
Speech at the Berlin Wall, 1963**



All free men, wherever they may live, are citizens of Berlin. And, therefore, as a free man, I take pride in the words “Ich bin ein Berliner.” [“I am a Berliner.”]

—John F. Kennedy

**Document L:
Peace Corps Poster**

