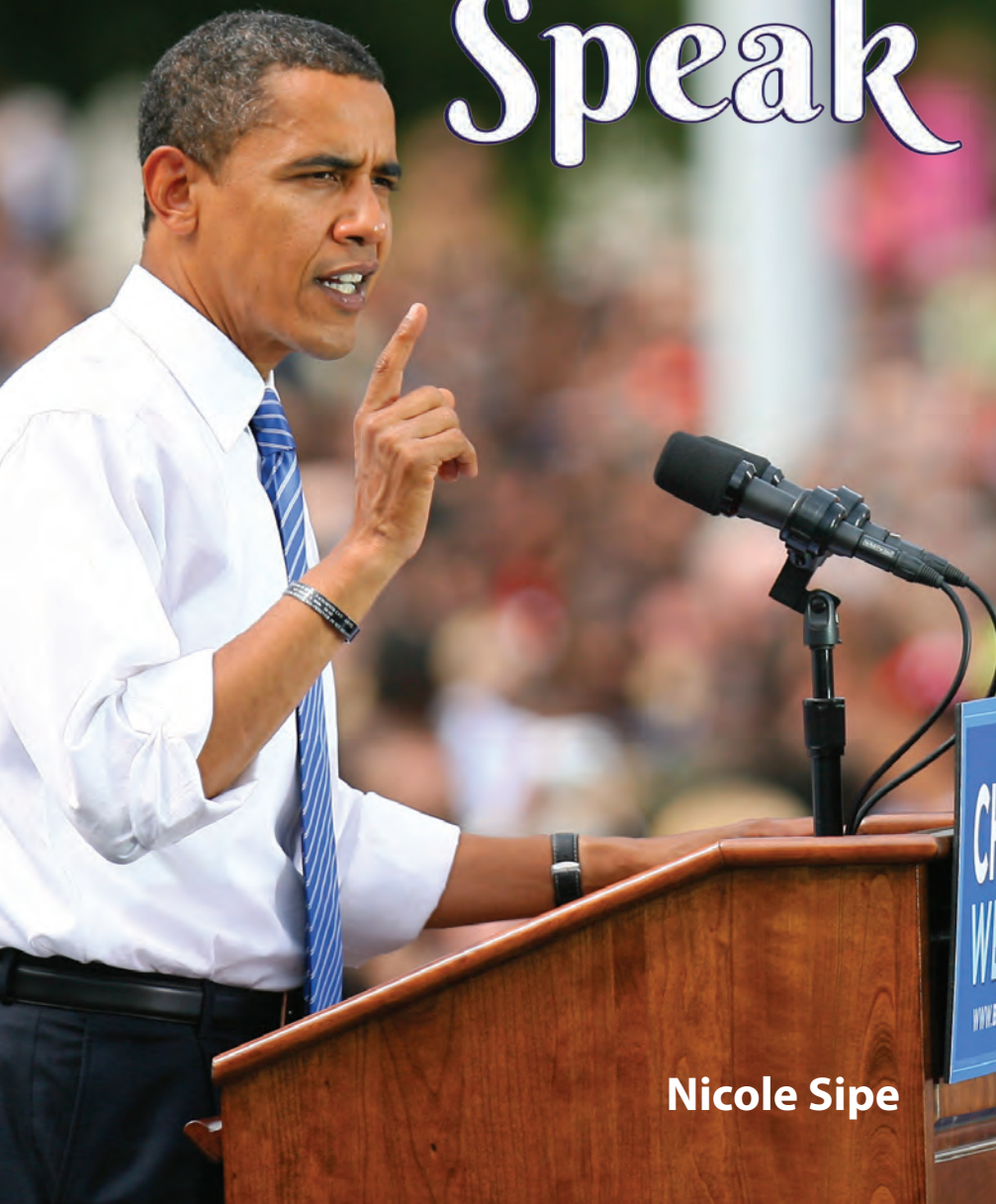


Communicate!

TIME

# World Leaders Speak



Nicole Sipe

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FOR REVIEW ONLY

# Lend Me Your Ears!

Here's a riddle for you: *What is something that can make you laugh, cry, feel angry, feel inspired, and make you think—all at the same time?* If you said, “a speech,” then you're right! A speech can make you feel a multitude of emotions. A speech can **motivate** you to action, persuade you to consider old ideas in new ways, and inspire you to change the world. In other words, speeches are very powerful!

History is full of leaders from around the world who have given inspiring speeches. These prominent men and women used the power of the spoken word to impact others. Although almost anyone can speak, it takes a substantial amount of skill to be a great orator.

Orators take ordinary words and weave them into brilliant speeches. Their speeches tell stories, relay information, and **influence** people's lives.

## Communication Long Ago

In ancient Greek and Roman times, the best way to relay information was by delivering speeches in person. Giving a speech was considered a very important skill. It was a subject that was taught in schools.



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gives a speech in Washington, DC in 1957.

# From the White House

Some of the most memorable speeches have come from U.S. presidents and first ladies. These leaders are always in the spotlight. They have many chances to speak out about any issue. And when the White House speaks, people listen!

## John F. Kennedy

It was a cold and clear day in Washington, DC, on January 20, 1961. A crowd was gathered outside the Capitol. Everyone was waiting to hear the new president speak. Television cameras were rolling, ready to capture a moment in history. John F. Kennedy stepped up to the **podium**. It was his first official day as president of the United States.

### Cold and Bold

Eight inches of snow fell the night before Kennedy's speech. Despite the frosty weather, Kennedy delivered his speech outdoors. He chose not to wear a jacket or hat while at the podium.



John F. Kennedy



## THINK LINK

- Have you ever heard a speech that inspired you? Why were you inspired?
- Why is it important for world leaders to make speeches?
- How can a powerful speech influence the way people think?



Kennedy and his wife, Jacqueline, walk to his inauguration.

Kennedy's **inauguration** speech addressed the big issue that was on everyone's mind at the time: the Cold War. The Cold War was a time of tension and competition between the United States and the Soviet Union.

During his speech, Kennedy said that he would be a leader of peace. He challenged the world to unite and cooperate instead of divide. This was a **turbulent** time in history when Americans were weary and looking for solutions. However, Kennedy could not offer a quick fix to the nation's problems. Instead, he offered his people hope—but he needed their help.

Then, Kennedy spoke these memorable words: "And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country."

It was a call to duty. The president was challenging the people in his country. To create a better world, citizens must contribute and make things happen for the better.

### Only a Lad

Kennedy was 43 years old when he became president. He is the youngest elected president in U.S. history! The average age of a president on the first day on the job is 55 years old.