

OAKLAND CUSD #5

SPEECH

APRIL 20-24, 2020

SABRINA KILE

Choice #1

BARBARA JORDAN

“1976 DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION KEYNOTE ADDRESS”

NARRATOR: Barbara Jordan, a lawyer, was the first African-American woman elected to the Texas state senate. Later, she was elected to the United States House of Representatives.

In 1974, during televised hearings of the House of Representatives committee considering a bill of impeachment against then President Richard Nixon, Congresswoman Barbara Jordan came to the nation's attention when she delivered a forceful defense of the United States Constitution.

Two years later, Jordan again stirred the nation with the following keynote address to the 1976 Democratic National Convention in New York City.

1 It was one hundred and forty-four years ago that members of the Democratic Party first met in convention to select a Presidential candidate. Since that time, Democrats have continued to convene once every four years and draft a party platform and nominate a Presidential candidate. And our meeting this week is a continuation of that tradition.

2 But there is something different about tonight. There is something special about tonight. What is different? What is special? I, Barbara Jordan, am a keynote speaker.

3 A lot of years passed since 1832, and during that time it would have been most unusual for any national political party to ask that a Barbara Jordan deliver a keynote address . . . but tonight here I am. And I feel that notwithstanding the past that my presence here is one additional bit of evidence that the American Dream need not forever be deferred.

4 Now that I have this grand distinction what in the world am I supposed to say?

5 I could easily spend this time praising the accomplishments of this party and attacking the Republicans, but I don't choose to do that.

6 I could list the many problems which Americans have. I could list the problems which cause people to feel cynical, angry, frustrated: problems which include lack of integrity in government; the feeling that the individual no longer counts; the reality of material and spiritual poverty; the feeling that the grand American experiment is failing or has failed. I could recite these problems and then I could sit down and offer no solutions. But I don't choose to do that either.

7 The citizens of America expect more. They deserve and they want more than a recital of problems.

8 We are a people in a quandary about the present. We are a people in search of our future. We are a people in search of a national community.

9 We are a people trying not only to solve the problems of the present: unemployment, inflation . . . but we are attempting on a larger scale to fulfill the

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promise of America. We are attempting to fulfill our national purpose; to create and sustain a society in which all of us are equal.

10 Throughout our history, when people have looked for new ways to solve their problems, and to uphold the principles of this nation, many times they have turned to political parties. They have often turned to the Democratic Party.

11 What is it, what is it about the Democratic Party that makes it the instrument the people use when they search for ways to shape their future? Well, I believe the answer to that question lies in our concept of governing. Our concept of governing is derived from our view of people. It is a concept deeply rooted in a set of beliefs firmly etched in the national conscience, of all of us.

12 Now what are these beliefs?

13 First, we believe in equality for all and privileges for none. This is a belief that each American regardless of background has equal standing in the public forum, all of us. Because we believe this idea so firmly, we are an inclusive rather than an exclusive party. Let everybody come.

14 I think it no accident that most of those emigrating to America in the nineteenth century identified with the Democratic Party. We are a heterogeneous party made up of Americans of diverse backgrounds.

15 We believe that the people are the source of all governmental power; that the authority of the people is to be extended, not restricted. This can be accomplished only by providing each citizen with every opportunity to participate in the management of the government. They must have that.

16 We believe that the government which represents the authority of all the people, not just one interest group, but all the people, has an obligation to actively, underscore actively, seek to remove those obstacles which would block individual achievement. . . obstacles emanating from race, sex, economic condition. The government must seek to remove them.

17 We are a party of innovation. We do not reject our traditions, but we are willing to adapt to changing circumstances, when change we must. We are willing to suffer the discomfort of change in order to achieve a better future.

18 We have a positive vision of the future founded on the belief that the gap between the promise and reality of America can one day be finally closed. We believe that.

19 This, my friends, is the bedrock of our concept of governing. This is a part of the reason why Americans have turned to the Democratic Party. These are the foundations upon which a national community can be built.

20 Let all understand that these guiding principles cannot be discarded for short-term political gains. They represent what this country is all about. They are indigenous to the American idea. And these are principles which are not negotiable.

21 In other times, I could stand here and give this kind of exposition on the beliefs of the Democratic Party and that would be enough. But today that is not enough. People want more. That is not sufficient reason for the majority of the people of this country to decide to vote Democratic. We have made mistakes. We realize that. We admit our mistakes. In our haste to do all things for all people, we did not foresee the full consequences of our actions. And when the people raised their voices, we didn't hear. But our deafness was only a temporary condition, and not an irreversible condition.

22 Even as I stand here and admit that we have made mistakes, I still believe that as the people of America sit in judgment on each party, they will recognize that our mistakes were mistakes of the heart. They'll recognize that.

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23 And now we must look to the future. Let us heed the voice of the people and recognize their common sense. If we do not, we not only blaspheme our political heritage, we ignore the common ties that bind all Americans.

24 Many fear the future. Many are distrustful of their leaders, and believe that their voices are never heard. Many seek only to satisfy their private work wants. To satisfy their private interests.

25 But this is the great danger America faces. That we will cease to be one nation and become instead a collection of interest groups: city against suburb, region against region, individual against individual. Each seeking to satisfy private wants.

26 If that happens, who then will speak for America?

27 Who then will speak for the common good?

28 This is the question which must be answered in 1976.

29 Are we to be one people bound together by common spirit sharing in a common endeavor or will we become a divided nation?

30 For all of its uncertainty, we cannot flee the future. We must not become the new puritans and reject our society. We must address and master the future together. It can be done if we restore the belief that we share a sense of national community, that we share a common national endeavor. It can be done.

31 There is no executive order; there is no law that can require the American people to form a national community. This we must do as individuals, and if we do it as individuals, there is no President of the United States who can veto that decision.

32 As a first step, we must restore our belief in ourselves. We are a generous people, so why can't we be generous with each other? We need to take to heart the words spoken by Thomas Jefferson:

33 "Let us restore social intercourse, that harmony and that affection without which liberty and even life are but dreary things.

34 "A nation is formed by the willingness of each of us to share in the responsibility for upholding the common good.

35 "A government is invigorated when each one of us is willing to participate in shaping the future of this nation."

36 In this election year we must define the common good and begin again to shape a common good and begin again to shape a common future. Let each person do his or her part. If one citizen is unwilling to participate, all of us are going to suffer. For the American idea, though it is shared by all of us, is realized in each one of us.

37 And now, what are those of us who are elected public officials supposed to do? We call ourselves public servants but I'll tell you this: We as public servants must set an example for the rest of the nation. It is hypocritical for the public official to admonish and exhort the people to uphold the common good if we are derelict in upholding the common good. More is required of public officials than slogans and handshakes and press releases. More is required. We must hold ourselves strictly accountable. We must provide the people with a vision of the future.

38 If we promise as public officials, we must deliver. If we, as public officials propose, we must produce. If we say to the American people it is time for you to be sacrificial, sacrifice. If the public official says that we must be the first to give, we must be. And again, if we make mistakes, we must be willing to admit them. We have to do that. What we have to do is strike a balance between the idea that government should do everything and the idea, the belief, that government ought to do nothing. Strike a balance.

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39 Let there be no illusions about the difficulty of forming this kind of a national community. It's tough, difficult, not easy. But a spirit of harmony will survive in America only if each of us remembers that we share a common destiny. If each of us remembers, when self-interest and bitterness seem to prevail, that we share a common destiny.

40 I have confidence that we can form this kind of national community.

41 I have confidence that the Democratic Party can lead the way. I have that confidence. We cannot improve on the system of government handed down to us by the founders of the Republic; there is no way to improve upon that. But what we can do is to find new ways to implement that system and realize our destiny.

42 Now, I began this speech by commenting to you on the uniqueness of a Barbara Jordan making the keynote address. Well, I am going to close my speech by quoting a Republican President, and I ask you that as you listen to these words of Abraham Lincoln, relate them to the concept of a national community in which every last one of us participates: "As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master. This expresses my idea of Democracy. Whatever differs from this, to the extent of the difference, is no Democracy."

NARRATOR: That is the end of Barbara Jordan's speech. Answer the questions on the Worksheet. Your teacher will stop the tape now.

Name Choice # 1 Date _____

WORKSHEET

“1976 DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION KEYNOTE ADDRESS”

Directions Listen to Barbara Jordan's keynote address to the 1976 Democratic National Convention. Then, using the printed transcript of the speech for reference, answer the following questions.

- Jordan begins her address by noting that her selection as a keynote speaker is “different . . . special.” Explain what she means.

- What is suggested by the word *keynote*? Why are the addresses that open political conventions called *keynote* speeches?

- Why do effective political speeches often recall well-known patriotic phrases from history? What well-known phrase from American history is recalled by Jordan's repetition of the words “we are a people”?

4. Many of the paragraphs in Jordan's speech end with such phrases as "They must have that," "We believe that," "They'll recognize that." What is the purpose of such phrases? Why are they especially important in a speech to be delivered before a crowded, noisy political convention? Give some other examples of similar phrases in Jordan's speech.

5. What is the central theme of Jordan's speech?

6. At the close of her speech, Jordan describes her selection as a keynote speaker as "unique." What is unique about the way she ends her speech?

7. Explain Abraham Lincoln's definition of democracy. How does this definition support and reinforce the theme of Jordan's speech?

COLOR SURVEY

Below are 10 incomplete sentences that describe people. Each sentence has four possible endings. Give four points to the phrase that is "most like you," three points to the phrase that is "Next most like you," two points to the next phrase, and one point to the phrase that is "least like you."

1. I like to ...
 - a. Make quick decisions and impact people around me
 - b. think about questions people usually don't ask and develop solutions
 - c. show empathy for the needs of others
 - d. have other depend on me

2. The best way for someone to show me they love me is ...
 - a. To surprise me with something
 - b. to allow me to be myself
 - c. to spend time with me, talking, listening, and sharing feelings
 - d. to do the same things I've asked them to do

3. In a relationship, I like to provide ...
 - a. Excitement and variety
 - b. objectivity and independence
 - c. love and compassion
 - d. stability and security

4. I like to ...
 - a. be impulsive and act freely
 - b. provide competent, intelligent input
 - c. help maintain a sense of harmony and togetherness
 - d. be responsible and dependable

5. The quality or strength I can be counted on to display is ...
 - a. courage
 - b. intelligence
 - c. understanding
 - d. responsibility

6. When I look at things around me I seek. . .
 - a. excitement
 - b. the reasons why/explanations
 - c. peace and harmony
 - d. order and structure

7. People who know me best would say I am . . .
 - a. zealous and competitive
 - b. reserved and methodical
 - c. emotional and sensitive to feelings
 - d. dedicated and traditional

8. I have a great need (desire) to be . . .
 - a. free and spontaneous
 - b. competent and logical
 - c. accepted and appreciated by others
 - d. in control of my surroundings

9. When I am feeling discouraged, I most often. . .
 - a. become defiant and rude
 - b. withdraw or become sarcastic
 - c. cry or feel sad
 - d. feel a lot of self-pity

10. In a social situation with friends, I usually . . .
 - a. have fun and enjoy it
 - b. talk quietly with one or two people
 - c. make sure others are happy, accepted, and having a good time
 - d. pitch in and do what is needed to ensure a successful event

Blue (C)	Gold (D)	Green (B)	Orange (A)

Color Characteristics

Category	Blue	Gold	Green	Orange
Esteemed for	Being a good listener	Being dependable	Discovering new insights	Being fun, taking risks
Stressed by	Feeling artificial	Lack of order	Feeling inadequate	Restrictions
Highest virtue is	loyalty	responsibility	objectivity	courage
Key Characteristics	Authenticity	Being prepared	Ingenuity	Talent and Skill
On the job	peacemaker	organizer	pragmatist	energize
perception	Concern	structure	abstract	excitement
Primary needs	To be authentic and care for others	To provide stability and order, to be in control	To be competent and rational	To be free and spontaneous
Seek for	Love and acceptance	Security	Insight and knowledge	Freedom
Strive to foster	Harmony	Traditional values	Thoughtful consideration	Fun and recreation
Take pride in	empathy	dependability	competence	impact
Specialty is	people	accomplishment/r results	Research and conceptualizations	entrepreneurship
Validated by	Acceptance	Being Appreciated	Affirming their wisdom	Achieving visible results
Trust	Intuition and feelings	Authority and tradition	Facts and logic	impulses

Gold Personality

If you have a gold personality, you are seen as someone who is frustrated with people who are irresponsible, lack prior planning before taking decisions, and you are sometimes also frustrated with lazy people. People tend to think that you are a person who needs too much control in your life, and that you might be too quick to judge others. People also tend to think that you are obsessive.

Blue Personality

If you have a blue personality, you are easily frustrated by those who lie, are sarcastic, and those people who use violence as a way of solving problems. People around you find your lack of prior planning, and passive avoidance of conflict as annoying. Also, people around you tend to find your insistence of being sentimental equally annoying.

Orange Personality

If you have an orange personality, you are frustrated by deadlines, laws, rules, and order. People around you are likewise frustrated by your avoidance of rules, your undisciplined behavior, and your quick temper. In addition, people around you may think that you are rash, and too quick to jump into a problem.

Green Personality

If you have a green personality, you are frustrated by small talk, social events, incompetent people, and routine behaviors. Those closest to you are frustrated by your lack of social skills, your inability to receive constructive criticism, and your attitude when challenged. People may also think that you are too independent, and unable to control your temper at times.

Color Meanings

Different color personality tests use different sets of colors. They differ even in the number of colors. Some important colors and their related generalized color meanings are given here for your amusement.

Orange Color Meanings

Orange is related to energy, strength and power. Your preferred choice of orange shows you a fighter. You love to win. You are a competitor. You are considered more suitable for the careers in sports, architecture and engineering. You fancy for design and form. Color personality tests term you as an energetic motivator.

Gold Color Meanings

Gold color represents loyalty and responsibility. When your primary choice is for gold, the color personality tests consider you an organizer. You love a peaceful environment. You value work and service oriented tasks. You have a greater degree of performance, stability and orderliness.

Green Color Meanings

The color personality preference tests assume that green color represents persistent, decisive and resistant state of mind. You are considered assertive. You care very little for feelings and focus upon the available information before making a decision. They consider you suitable for careers in science, research, accounts, and auditing. You are capable to analyze the details in minute.

Blue Color Meanings

Blue color is related to calmness. When your primary choice is blue, the color personality tests consider you creative, balanced and harmonious. You avoid too many conflicting opinions. You are peaceful and possess a developed aesthetic sense. You are considered suitable for careers in art, music and literature.

A = orange
B = Green
C = Blue
D = Gold