



Say It Plain: Student Exercises - Segment 3

Answer Key

Segment 3: Speeches from Positions of Power

In this last segment, we listen to African Americans as they moved into mainstream positions of power. Shirley Chisholm was the first black woman elected to Congress and Barbara Jordan was one of the representatives to sit on the House Watergate committee; Reverend Jesse Jackson formed the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition and ran for President; Barack Obama gave a memorable speech at the 2004 Democratic National Convention.

Listening Comprehension Questions

Read the following questions, then listen to the third segment of [*“Say it Plain”*](#) to find the answers.

Answer the following questions:

1. What is “the inquiry” that Jordan refers to in her speech?

The Watergate Hearings of 1974.

2. When was the Constitution completed?

1787

3. How does Ms. Jordan feel she, and other African Americans, have been included in the group that the Constitution refers to as “We the people”?

By amendment, interpretation, and court decision.

4. According to the Constitution’s description of the impeachment process, is the House of Representatives’ job to accuse the president or to judge whether the president should be removed from office?

The House of Representatives accuses; the Senate’s job is to judge.

5. Why does Jordan think that this division of roles is a good idea?

She observes that the same people who decide whether someone should be tried shouldn’t decide whether he or she is guilty.

6. According to Jordan, why does the Constitution outline a process by which the president or other high-ranking officials can be impeached?

Impeachment can stop the excesses and tyranny of the president and others, especially if they violate the laws that they are supposed to enforce.

7. Which president said that impeachment should only happen when the “plain law of the land” is violated?

Woodrow Wilson

8. What things did Jordan say the president knew about on June 23, 1972?

He knew about Republican money in the hands of Watergate burglars and the prior activities of E. Howard Hunt.



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Key Terms and Topics

Terms

From *Barbara Jordan's Statement at the U.S. House Judiciary Committee Impeachment Hearings*

Amendment : *a change, especially to the Constitution*

Hyperbole : *exaggeration, usually to make a point*

Impeachment : *accusation of misconduct by, leading to a trial for possible removal from office*

Inquest : *trial, hearing*

Inquisitor : *one who questions the guilt of another*

Juxtapose : *compare, place side by side*

Obfuscate : *hide, obscure or confuse*

Perjury : *lying under oath*

Subpoena : *legal summons to appear*

Surreptitious : *sneaky, hidden*

Thwart : *stop, successfully oppose*

Committee for the Re-Election of the President (*Jordan misspoke, the organization was actually named Committee to Re-elect the President*) : *The organization that ran President Nixon's campaign*

Separation of Powers : *the concept that, within the U.S. government, the legislative, executive, and judicial branches are independent*

Watergate : *the name of a Washington hotel and office complex that came to symbolize the scandal that led to the resignation of President Nixon*



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Key Terms and Topics

Terms

From *“Say it Plain” segment 3*

Forthwith : *immediately*

Hierarchy : *organizational structure in which some have authority over others.*

Liberation : *freedom from oppression*

Supremacy : *belief that one is superior to all others.*

Grand Jury : *a panel of citizens that decides whether a trial should be held.*

Rainbow Coalition : *organization founded by Rev. Jesse Jackson, it’s mission is to unite diverse people to work for social, racial and economic justice.*

Women’s Movement : *movement for equal rights for women.*