

Document Analysis

In an attack on President Truman's foreign policy in February 1950, Senator Joseph McCarthy claimed to have a list of hundreds of communists employed by the federal government, but he never publicly revealed any of those names. In June 1950, Senator Margaret Chase Smith went before the Senate to deliver a personal rebuttal to McCarthyism in her "Declaration of Conscience."

1

While I cannot take the time to name [them], I have in my hand 205 cases of individuals who would appear to be either card carrying members or certainly loyal to the Communist Party, but who nevertheless are still helping to shape our foreign policy.

One thing to remember in discussing the Communists in our government is that we are not dealing with spies who get thirty pieces of silver to steal the blueprints of a new weapon. We are dealing with a far more sinister type of activity because it permits the enemy to guide and shape our policy.

—from a speech in the Senate by Senator Joseph R. McCarthy, 1950

2

The United States Senate has long enjoyed worldwide respect as the greatest deliberative body in the world. But recently that deliberative character has too often been debased to the level of a forum of hate and character assassination sheltered by the shield of congressional immunity.

The American people are sick and tired of being afraid to speak their minds lest they be politically smeared as "Communists" or "Fascists" by their opponents. Freedom of speech is not what it used to be in America. It has been so abused by some that it is not exercised by others.

—from a speech in the Senate by Senator Margaret Chase Smith, 1950

Identify: Doc. #1

Identify: Doc. #2

Summarize:

D#1 _____

D#2 _____

Analyze/Evaluate:

1) *What threat is McCarthy referring to when he says: "We are dealing with a far more sinister type of activity..."? How does this threat inspire the amount of fear that keeps him in power?*

2) *Why does Margaret Chase Smith title her speech "Declaration of Conscience"? What is the main message that she is using to discredit McCarthy?*

DIRECTIONS:

- 1) **Number** each paragraph (if there is more than one).
- 2) As you read the document **underline/highlight** important information (description of people or places, facts, or other evidence).
- 3) As you read the document, **circle** (in a different color than used in step 1) key terms, dates, historical events, names, places, and words that signal relationship (“this led to…” or “as a result of…”). If the phrase is longer than 3-4 words it should be highlighted not circled.
- 4) As you read the document, **box** words with which you are unfamiliar. In the margins, **define** these words. Remember, this is an exercise in building your vocabulary. So, if you can use context clues to figure out what the word means, but can’t define it on its own, you need to box and define that word.
- 5) **Identify** the document:
 - a. What kind of document are you looking at (speech, book/document excerpt {be specific about which one!}, news article, political cartoon, etc.)?
 - b. Who wrote it/said it?
 - c. When was it said/written?
 - d. Where?
- 6) **Summarize** the document:
 - a. In 1-2 sentences only, summarize what this document is about/what the document is saying
- 7) **Analyze/Evaluate** the document:
 - a. Analyze the document by answering each of the questions listed below it.