

Name: _____ Date: _____

Preparing to Write: Cherry Mine Speech

The writing prompt on page 10 says:

Write a speech for the anniversary of the Cherry Mine disaster. Your speech should explain why the disaster is important to remember.

Follow the directions below to help you organize the ideas and details you will use in your speech.

What happened at the Cherry Mine?

1. Write an objective summary (a short statement or paragraph that tells what happened) about what took place at the Cherry Mine on November 13, 1909.

Why did this tragedy occur?

2. List details from the article that help explain why this tragedy occurred. Then explain what could have been done differently. We've written one idea for you.
 - The Cherry Mine lacked basic safety features, such as an alarm system that could notify workers of a fire or disaster (9). Many more workers could have escaped from the mine if they had been notified of the fire sooner.

How did the Cherry Mine disaster help change America?

3. List details from the article that show how this tragedy helped to change America.

What can be learned from the Cherry Mine disaster?

4. Consider your responses to questions 1-3. Why is it important to remember this tragedy? To support your answer, include important details from the article as well as your own opinions.