

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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# McCarthyism - Answer Key

Use the text to answer each question below.

1. The following excerpt is from Joseph's McCarthy's "Enemies from Within" speech delivered in Wheeling, West Virginia in 1950.

This speech effectively does which of the following?

*The reason why we find ourselves in a position of impotency is not because our only powerful, potential enemy has sent men to invade our shores, but rather because of the traitorous actions of those who have been treated so well by this nation. It has not been the less fortunate or members of minority groups who have been selling this nation out, but rather those who have had all the benefits that the wealthiest nation on earth has had to offer—the finest homes, the finest college education, and the finest jobs in government we can give. This is glaringly true in the State Department. ... In my opinion the State Department, which is one of the most important government departments, is thoroughly infested with communists. I have in my hand 57 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 30 pieces of silver to steal the blueprints of new weapons. We are dealing with a far more sinister type of activity because it permits the enemy to guide and shape our policy.*

- A. Encourages the audience to embrace patriotism
- B. Presents a problem and a set of solutions
- C. Uses supported facts and evidence to relay an unbiased opinion
- D. Elicits fear from the audience through word choice

*McCarthy uses words like "traitorous," "infested," and "sinister" to create a sentiment of fear and paranoia.*

2. The following is an excerpt from the Army-McCarthy hearings in 1954. It follows the exchange between Joseph McCarthy and Joseph Welch, the chief counsel hired by the US Army. During this particular hearing, McCarthy accused one of Welch's attorneys of having ties to communists.

Who is Mr. Welch defending in this excerpt?

**Senator McCarthy:** But in view of Mr. Welch's request that the information be given once we know of anyone who might be performing any work for the Communist Party, I think we should tell him that he has in his law firm a young man named Fisher whom he recommended, incidentally, to do the work on this committee, who has been, for a number of years, a member of an organization which is named, oh, years and years ago, as the legal bulwark of the Communist Party, an organization which always springs to the defense of anyone who dares to expose Communists. I certainly assume that Mr. Welch did not know of this young man at the time he recommended as the assistant counsel for this committee. But he has terror and such a great desire to know where anyone is located who may be serving the communist cause, Mr. Welch.

**Mr. Welch:** Until this moment, Senator, I think I never really gauged your cruelty, or your recklessness. Fred Fisher is a young man who went to the Harvard Law School and came into my firm and is starting what looks to be a brilliant career with us. When I decided to work for this committee, I asked Jim St. Clair, who sits on my right, to be my first assistant. I said to Jim, "Pick somebody in the firm to work under you that you would like." He chose Fred Fisher, and they came down on an afternoon plane. ...

**Mr. Welch:** Little did I dream you could be so reckless and so cruel as to do an injury to that lad. It is true he is still with Hale & Dorr. It is true that he will continue to be with Hale & Dorr. It is, I regret to say, equally true that I fear he shall always bear a scar needlessly inflicted by you. If it were in my power to forgive you for your reckless cruelty, I would do so. I like to think I'm a gentle man, but your forgiveness will have to come from someone other than me... You've done enough. Have you no sense of decency, sir, at long last? Have you left no sense of decency?

A. Joseph McCarthy



B.

Fred Fisher

In this excerpt, Mr. Welch is defending one of his attorneys, Fred Fisher, after McCarthy accused him of having ties with communists. Details like "Little did I dream you could be so reckless and so cruel as to do an injury to that lad" and "It is, I regret to say, equally true that I fear he shall always bear a scar needlessly inflicted by you" support this answer.

C. Jim St. Clair

D. Himself

3. Joseph McCarthy was elected senator of Wisconsin in 1946. It wasn't until 1950, after delivering his "Enemies from Within" speech in Wheeling, Virginia, that he drew national attention. He used the nation's paranoia about the spread of communism to push his political agenda. In the "Enemies from Within" speech, McCarthy claimed to have a list of "57 cases of individuals" (205 individuals according to other publications) in the State Department who were affiliated with communists. This allegation caught the attention of the country. Nobody was safe from his accusations; McCarthy accused not only government officials of sympathizing with communists but also educators, people in the entertainment industry, and the US Army. McCarthy lost most of his popularity after the Army-McCarthy hearings were televised and the public became aware of his intimidation tactics. As a result, the Senate voted to censure him, expressing their disapproval of his behavior. Although McCarthy was able to keep his position as senator, his reputation was tarnished.

What was the turning point of McCarthy's career that led to his fall?

- A. The "Enemies from Within" speech
- B. Taking office as a senator from Wisconsin
- C. The televised Army-McCarthy hearings
- D. Accusing the State Department of being affiliated with communists

*Details like, "McCarthy lost most of his popularity after the Army-McCarthy hearings were televised" and "As a result, the Senate voted to censure him, expressing their disapproval of his behavior" support this answer.*