

## PREDICTIONS

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List some of the words you expect to hear.

The president of the United States, Barack Obama, is giving a speech about the problems caused by the changing climate and in particular by global warming, a few days before leaving for Copenhagen where a world assembly is going to be held on the same subject.

# Obama's Speech on Climate

United Nations Organization, 22 September 2009



Video with subtitles

Video without subtitles

## GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING

- 1 Read the following questions before viewing the video for the first time and then answer them.
  - a) From where is president Obama speaking? Is he alone or is he accompanied by someone else?
  - b) How is he dressed?
  - c) Observe the movements of his head. How is he moving it and why?
  - d) The camera focuses twice on people in the audience. Can you identify their nationality? How do you know?
  - e) In his attitude does the president look determined, open to other people's ideas, aggressive, convincing? Why or why not?

## ORGANIZING THOUGHT

- 1 List the dangers that president Obama thinks are menacing us all.e.g. *rising sea levels*.....
- 2 Why does he mention J.F. Kennedy's words?
- 3 He states that the time for controlling the situation is limited, but which words does he use to declare his optimism?
- 4 When the president mentions his next visit to Copenhagen, who/what does the camera frame? When are the Chinese focussed on?
- 5 Note down the key words of the final part of his speech. Complete the following sentence.  
If we work in a (a) ..... effort, we will achieve a (b) ..... purpose: a (c) ....., cleaner, (d) ..... world, a future for our (e) .....
- 6 As you may have noticed, Obama repeats a word twice and uses a few comparatives. What do these words suggest?

## CRITICAL THINKING

- 1 Obama's first sentence opens with the words "No nation".
  - a) What follows next?
  - b) What does this statement imply?
- 2 Obama speaks of a "journey".
  - a) How many times does he utter the word?
  - b) Is it a real journey or a symbolic one?
- 3 How does the president's appeal sound to you?