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3 Minute Speech on Space Exploration

Curiosity is a human trait. Humanity has always been interested in its surroundings. And now that we have conquered most of what our planet has offer, don't you think it is time we took to the heavens?

My name is _____ and I will be speaking in favor of space exploration and its importance for our society.

Since time immemorial, we have been interested in the stars and the heavens, attributing to them mysterious properties in our quest to know more about them.

This universal and enduring need to know more about our universe is closer to being quenched than ever. We have discovered new worlds and pushed the limits of our scientific and technical knowledge. And while we have strived to learn more about our universe, we have managed to greatly benefit our society, our country and the world on the whole as well.

Space exploration has answered some fundamental questions about our place in the world. While trying to master space we have created new industries, created better technology and shaped mutually beneficial relations with other nations.

Inquisitiveness and investigation are essential for the human spirit and NASA's travels into deep space have given many of us, our parents and families a chance to delve into our deepest fantasies, hoping and praying that the exciting journeys succeed and continue.

The arguments against space exploration have remained the same for the past 5 decades or so. The old arguments that keep getting tossed around say that space exploration is too expensive to be beneficial to our society. They say that it is dangerous. They say it's no use going to other planets when we have so many problems on our planet!

I think there is a huge problem with these arguments. The mistaken thoughts behind these arguments forgot to take into account the unquantifiable benefits that NASA research has bestowed upon us. NASA has brought us better health care, travel, communication and all in all, a much better life.

NASA developed the digital imaging technology that makes possible the MRI machines of today. It was the NASA Reusable Solid Rocket Motor (RSRM) scrap propellant that gave our armed forces the ability to save themselves from being blown to pieces by land mines.

And what about the satellites that can now help us successfully predict weather for the next few weeks? NASA's satellites also enable us to use the GPS technology and keep us from getting lost. These satellites also make possible long range television, internet, long range communication with phones etc. All these services are now a critical part of our society. We can't imagine life without them. But there is no way we could have stumbled upon these technologies had NASA not been funded generously for their space exploration efforts.

And for those who say that space exploration is dangerous, the simple answer is what isn't? At least 18 people have died during space flight missions, while many Mars rovers were unsuccessful despite the billions of dollars spent on them. But why does it mean that we should give up?

If these accidents prove anything, it is that we should persevere and look for better, safer technology to take our astronauts into outer space. What would have happened had the Wright Brothers given up after their first fatal airplane crash in 1908? I believe, giving up is never the right option. All the dangers of space exploration are public knowledge and there are no hidden hazards. Besides Astronauts are the only ones threatened and they too are made fully aware of what they are signing up for. They risk their lives knowingly in service of science, who are we to deny their sacrifices?

Another point of distress is the costs involved in space exploration. In the United States, this is just a fraction of what we spend on military. And as stated earlier, the benefits and scientific advancements to be had from space research has more than justified and paid for itself. Space vehicles are built in a little over \$ 25 million. This amount is very tiny when compared to what we are spending in Iraq every week and that too inefficiently! And might I mention that the net benefit of space exploration can outweigh war any day.

Ladies and gentlemen, poverty has always been a part and parcel for the human society. If more money was all that was needed to eradicate it, we would have done it already. The only things that can end world poverty and hunger are education and science. Space exploration is a huge industry. The research being conducted on alternative fuel and food sources for space travel will be able to help the less fortunate of this world. We need to empower the poor, teach them how to fish! Space exploration can give us better resources and more advanced technologies to create a better environment and opportunities for all.

NASA is a powerful American resource. An investment in NASA is important to ensure that America's future in leadership and vision is secure. We will reap countless benefits as a society from its space exploration programs.

I urge you to understand the role of NASA, our space exploration program and the importance of providing the organization with the necessary resources to create a space program that is worthy of our great nation. We need to get back to science and maths, and NASA astronauts need to become our new heroes if we are to return to our glorious days.

To attack space exploration is to attack scientific research. I agree that research is done for research's sake, but always, the knowledge generated from research is beneficial for all mankind. And this holds true for space exploration.

Lastly, we need to remember that if humans didn't always satisfy our innate urge to "see what's out there", Australia would still be primarily originated by Aborigines, and North Americans would all be Native Americans. It is in human nature to discover and explore our surroundings. Space is just the next, and inevitable, step towards learning more about our world. The possibilities are endless when we look to the heavens.

Thank you.