

The title of the editorial suggests the author's point of view.



## Veteran Returns, Becomes Symbol

Editorial in the *Minneapolis Star and Tribune*, January 19, 1998

John Glenn went into orbit in 1962 and took America's hearts soaring with him. Who better to fire the nation's imagination again about the promise of space exploration?

NASA has done itself and its cause great good by announcing that Glenn, the astronaut-turned-U.S. senator, will fly into space once more. Though Glenn has represented Ohio in the Senate for five terms and run for president once, many Americans still consider his name synonymous with the nation's manned space program.

At a time when all astronauts were esteemed as America's best and brightest, Glenn stood out. Though not the first American in space, nor the one to seize the space-race prize—a moment of glory—Glenn possessed an appeal that surpassed that of his peers.

Just as Glenn's orbital heroics inspired America when he was a young man, by joining the shuttle crew in October at age 77, he can inspire the nation again. He can reignite curiosity about the benefits and challenges for humankind that lie beyond Earth. He can let a watchful public share vicariously<sup>1</sup> his delight at leaving Earth's bounds once more.

And he can again be an exemplar for his generation—a generation already setting new standards for vigor and productivity past age 70. Glenn's flight should dramatically demonstrate that age is no limit to derring-do, nor to service to one's country.

Volunteering for a space ride isn't an option for most septuagenarians.<sup>2</sup> But many of Glenn's contemporaries are also volunteering, lending a hand to the young, old, sick and needy in their own communities. As America honors Glenn's past and future career in space, let the nation also take grateful note of the good works senior citizens are doing here on the ground.

### Editorial

#### Features:

- leisure reading
- writer's opinion on a current issue
- persuasive language
- text written for a general or a specific audience

The author uses persuasive language that appeals to the emotions.

The editorial concludes with a memorable sentence.

<sup>1</sup>vicariously (vī ker' ē əs lē) *adv.* Indirectly; through the experience of another; by sympathy or imagination.

<sup>2</sup>septuagenarians (sep' too ə jə ner' ē ənz) *n.* Persons between the ages of 70 and 80.

The title of the editorial clearly states the author's point of view.

# The Wrong Orbit: Senator Has No Legitimate Business Blasting into Space

Editorial in *The Kansas City Star*, January 20, 1998

Most Americans think of political lobbying as something done by special interest groups trying to curry favor with lawmakers to affect some legislation. Not so in the case of Sen. John Glenn and his former employer, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Glenn, a Democratic senator from Ohio, has lobbied NASA for some time in hope of returning to space. Glenn, who will turn 77 in July, was the first American to orbit the Earth.

He plans to retire from the Senate, but for his next engagement he wants to strap on a space suit under the pretense of scientific merit.

Glenn says his space jaunt would help the space program understand the effects of weightlessness on the aging human form. (C'mon, Senator, it's doubtful even you believe that, so don't expect anyone else to.)

There are much better uses for the taxpayers' money than Glenn's planned junket in space via the Discovery mission in October. Besides, as the senator ought to

The author uses persuasive language that appeals to the emotions.

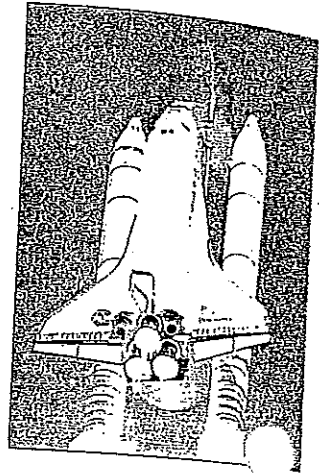
know, workers in the space program are being laid off around the country due to downsizing at NASA. And there's something questionable, if not downright indecent, about a U.S. senator who has been a NASA ally in Congress, calling on the space agency for a favor. Whether on this planet or another, a *quid pro quo*<sup>1</sup> is the same.

John Glenn became a hero after his pioneering space flight, and he parlayed that status into what was said to be a successful political career. His political career was jeopardized by his involvement in the Keating Five scandal, and he became excessively shrill this year during committee hearings as the Senate defender of the Democratic presidential fund-raising debacle.<sup>2</sup>

Certainly, there are times when good science and good politics mix, as happened with the launch of the U.S. space program as part of the space race with the former Soviet Union.

But Glenn's proposed junket in space is neither good science nor good politics.

The author concludes by firmly restating his or her opinion.



1. *quid pro quo* (kwid prō kwō) *n.* Latin phrase meaning "this for that"; a thing given or done in exchange for another.

2. *Keating Five* . . . *fund-raising debacle* (di bā' kəl) *n.* The Keating Five were five senators, including John Glenn, who received contributions from Charles Keating, a businessman under criminal investigation. In 1997, the Senate and the Justice Department investigated White House fund-raising practices.