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English for Engineering, Period 2/3

6 February 2023

The Value of Safe Travels

“Safety is our number one priority” is a phrase used by many people and companies, but who truly means it? Obviously, the parties that actively and wholly stay true to it. But when is it fair for safety to not be at the top of the list? While space exploration seems like something that should stick to safety measures, this has not always been the case. There was a time when it was not. Space travel should always put the safety of the people traveling first because there have been tragic results when security was not the number one priority.

It took a rocket ship exploding for NASA to take safety regulations seriously. In addition, no one was held criminally responsible for the death of the people aboard. This extreme was what forced a change in the way things were run. In the article, it states, “Less than 20 years later, it took the Challenger space shuttle disaster, which killed all seven crew members...for NASA to recommit to risk-based decision making that prioritizes human life over ‘impossible schedules’ and cost savings and to establish the Office of Safety and Mission Assurance,” (Munro). In situations where there is no pressing issue urging the trip, there is no reason to not take the extra time, care, and effort to ensure the protection of the people on board. Furthermore, the focus on becoming a step ahead in the “Space Race” and the lack of knowledge loosened the standards on safety for space exploration. The competition between the countries caused speed

and completion to be of the utmost importance. And when people's lives could be endangered, just like any space trip, we need to question what the value behind it is. The article explains, “The operational frontier is concerned with mission success — whatever mission they have been given — but not so concerned about whether a mission ought to proceed at all,” (Munro). This is significant because space exploration has widely increased in the past years. With this expansion, we need to keep safety as a priority.

There has been incredible knowledge learned from diving deeper into space and all it has to offer. Beating another country in a competition that the majority of the United States did not want to be a part of created a lot of problems, but there was a lot of good that resulted from it. In conclusion, space travel should always put the safety of the people traveling first because there have been tragic results when security was not the number one priority.

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