Using Claude to Generate Sound Bites

Four Extracted Sound Bites for Media Use

Source: Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum | January 28, 1986

https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/speech/address-nation-explosion-space-shuttle-challenger

The four sound bites below were extracted from President Ronald Reagan's nationally televised address delivered on January 28, 1986, the evening of the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster. They were generated using a custom sound bite tool created by Todd Curtis of AirSafe Media — a specialized HTML application that connects directly to Claude via a paid API account and applies consistent selection criteria automatically. Users without access to that custom tool can still produce comparable sound bites by working directly with Claude through a free or paid Claude.ai account, though the process is more manual and the output formatting will vary. Each sound bite was selected based on the following criteria: brevity (under 8 seconds when spoken at a natural pace), clarity of language accessible to a general audience, direct relevance to a specific concern or question, and strong potential for use in broadcast media contexts. Each entry below identifies the approximate spoken duration, the rhetorical structure employed, and the primary question or concern the sound bite addresses.

SOUND BITE 1

"The future doesn't belong to the fainthearted — it belongs to the brave. The Challenger crew was pulling us into the future, and we'll continue to follow them."

Duration: ~eight seconds **Structure:** Emotional — call to courage and continuity
Addresses: Whether tragedy should stop the space program

SOUND BITE 2

"We don't hide our space program. We don't keep secrets and cover things up. We do it all up front and in public — that's the way freedom is."

Duration: ~seven seconds **Structure:** Complex — values statement contrasting closed societies
Addresses: NASA's transparency and America's open approach to exploration

SOUND BITE 3

"Nothing ends here — our hopes and our journeys continue."

Duration: ~four seconds **Structure:** Emotional — defiant reassurance
Addresses: Affirming the space program will press forward after the disaster

SOUND BITE 4

"The crew of the Challenger honored us by the manner in which they lived their lives — and they slipped the surly bonds of earth to touch the face of God."

Duration: ~eight seconds **Structure:** Emotional — poetic farewell from John Gillespie Magee's 'High Flight'
Addresses: Closing tribute — the speech's most memorable moment

Step-by-Step Guide to Generating Sound Bites

This guide shows you how to generate sound bites using Claude, Anthropic's AI assistant. Four options are provided based on your account type. Options A, B, and C all use Claude's chat interface directly and do not require any additional software. Option D uses a custom HTML tool (claude_sound_bite_generator.html) that runs in your browser and connects to Claude automatically — but it requires an API key from Anthropic's developer console, which is separate from any Claude.ai subscription. Each option is a step up from the previous one in terms of speed, consistency, and output quality. Options A through C produce sound bites of comparable quality to Option D, but require you to paste text manually, word your request each time, and format the results yourself. Option D automates all of that — producing uniform, structured output that is ready to use immediately.

Option A — No Claude Account

Step 1 — Open Claude.ai in Your Browser

Go to https://claude.ai in any web browser. You do not need to create an account to try Claude. Select "Start for free" or use the guest option if available.

Note: Without an account, usage is limited. You may reach a message limit quickly on longer transcripts.

Step 2 — Paste Your Text Directly into the Chat

Copy the speech or transcript text you want to analyze. Paste it into the Claude chat window along with a request such as: "Extract seven sound bites from this text, each under eight seconds when spoken."

Step 3 — Copy and Save Your Results

When Claude returns the sound bites, copy the results and paste them into a Word document, email, or notes app. This manual method works well for occasional use.

Tip: Creating a free account (Option B) removes usage restrictions and saves your conversation history.

Option B — Free Claude Account

Step 1 — Create a Free Account at Claude.ai

Go to https://claude.ai and sign up for a free account using your email address. No payment information is required.

Step 2 — Paste Your Text into the Chat

Log in and start a new conversation. Paste your transcript or speech text along with a request such as: "Extract seven sound bites from this text, each under eight seconds when spoken." The free account supports longer conversations than the no-account option and saves your history.

Note: Free accounts have a daily message limit. For high-volume work, a paid account (Option C or D) is more practical.

Step 3 — Save Your Results

Copy the output and paste it wherever you need it. You can revisit past conversations from your account dashboard at any time.

Note: The HTML tool (claude_sound_bite_generator.html) requires an API key and cannot be used with a free Claude.ai account.

Option C — Paid Claude Account (No API Key)

Step 1 — Sign In to Claude.ai

Go to https://claude.ai and sign in to your paid account. A paid subscription (such as Claude Pro) can be used in any standard web browser — no desktop app is required.

Step 2 — Paste Your Text into the Chat

Start a new conversation and paste your transcript or speech text along with a request such as: “Extract seven sound bites from this text, each under eight seconds when spoken.” A paid account gives you access to more capable models, higher or unlimited message limits, longer context windows for processing lengthy transcripts, and priority access during periods of high demand.

Note: The overall quality and reliability of results is noticeably better with a paid account than with a free account, even though the manual workflow is the same.

Step 3 — Save Your Results

Copy the output and paste it into a Word document, email, or notes app. You can revisit past conversations from your account dashboard at any time.

Note: A paid Claude.ai subscription does not include API access. If you want to use the custom HTML tool, you will need to set up a separate API account as described in Option D.

Option D — Custom HTML Tool (API Key Required)

Pre-Check — Confirm You Have an Active API Key

Before proceeding, verify that you have a working Anthropic API key. Go to https://console.anthropic.com and sign in. Navigate to “API Keys” in the left sidebar. Confirm that at least one key is listed and shows an active status. Also confirm that a valid payment method is on file under “Billing” — the API is pay-as-you-go and will not process requests without one. If you do not yet have an API key, click “Create Key,” give it a name, and copy the key string immediately — it will only be shown once. API keys begin with the prefix sk-ant- followed by a long string of characters. Store your key in a secure location such as a password manager.

Note: An Anthropic API account is separate from a Claude.ai subscription. You may have one without the other.

Step 1 — Locate and Open the HTML Tool

Find the file claude_sound_bite_generator.html on your computer (check your Downloads folder or wherever you saved it). Double-click it to open it in your web browser. No installation is required.

Step 2 — Enter Your API Key

When prompted, paste your API key into the designated field. Your key is used only on your computer to connect to Anthropic’s service and is not stored or shared beyond that connection.

Step 3 — Paste Your Source Text and Generate Sound Bites

Fill in the source name, topic focus, and desired number of sound bites. Paste your transcript into the text area and click “Generate Sound Bites.” Results appear within a few seconds, formatted and ready to use.

Step 4 — Save or Export Your Results

Copy the results to your clipboard, paste them into a Word document or email, or use your browser's print function (File → Print → Save as PDF) to create a formatted PDF.

Tip: If the tool does not respond, confirm your internet connection is active, verify your API key was entered correctly with no extra spaces, and check that your billing account is funded. For help, contact todd@airsafemedia.com.