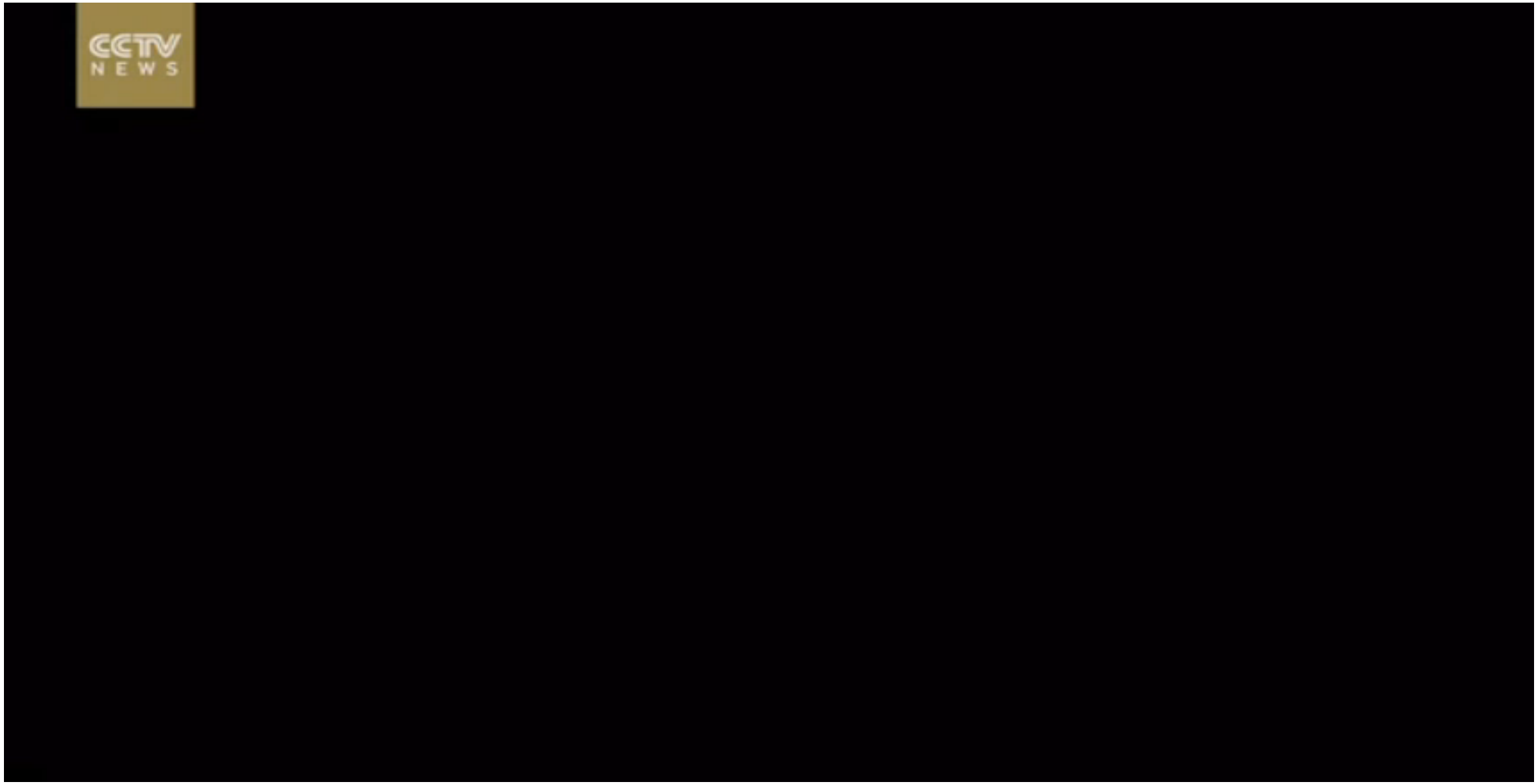

Extended reading
Why we explore

Warm-up

Why do we explore space?



Warm-up

Why do we explore space?

- ✓ To solve the mysteries of outer space;
- ✓ To find another planet to settle on;
- ✓ To display a country's national strength;
- ✓ …

Reading for structure

Why we explore

Introduction

Para. 1: Why do we continue to explore space?

Reasons for space exploration

Para. 2: To satisfy humans' **curiosity**

Para. 3: To better understand the **origin**, **evolution**, and likely **future** of the universe

Para. 4: To solve **big problems** and make our lives **safer and easier**

Para. 5: To gain great **economic value**

Para. 6: To **educate** and **inspire** the next generation

In 1969, when Neil Armstrong first landed on the Moon, many people thought tha soon we would be regularly visiting other planets in our solar system and would even dare to travel beyond it. This is clearly not the case. The reality is that space exploration is e long time and costs a huge am pace exploration expands our understanding of the universe, it is a waste of the public purse and does nothing to enhance the quality of our lives here on the Earth. Why do we continue to explore space, then?

Introduction

It is in our nature to explore. From the very early days of human life on the Earth, our curiosity about the unknown has kept us adventuring into new places. We long to visit thick and wild forests, climb vast mountain ranges, and cross deep oceans. We desire vking once said, . Try to make sens exist. Be curious." That we are fascinated by the sky is evident in ancient tales from around the world, such as that of Chang'e. While space exploration is a reality, we remain curious about the mysteries of the universe. With each space mission comes greater insight, thus motivating us to continue along the same path of adventure.

Internal motive: our nature

The results of these space investigations have made major contributions to an understanding of the origin, evolution, and likely future of the universe, such as planets, stars, and all other forms of matter and energy. Exploring space helps address fundamental questions about our place in the universe and the history of our solar system. It is through our research into space that we have confirmed that the Earth is round and that it orbits the Sun. As we learn more about the universe, we may one day answer the question whether there is life on other planets.

With technologies first researched and developed for space exploration, we can solve some of the big problems facing mankind, making our lives safer and easier. One of these is earthquake shock absorbers. Shock absorbers originally applied to the space shuttle launch have also been set up in the cities with a high frequency of earthquakes in order to protect buildings and save lives. Some technologies need f n is a ely t ar f ieties c gy. T

External motives: Advantages of space exploration

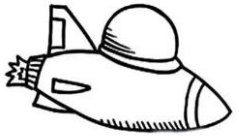
Although space exploration demands huge investment, the space industry can actually bring great economic value. It has been calculated that the global space economy is increasing by billions of dollars every year. At the same time, space exploration can provide a variety of career opportunities for young people. Jobs in the space industry go far beyond the astronauts that receive widespread media coverage. There are many support staff on the ground, such as engineers, mechanics and research assistants.

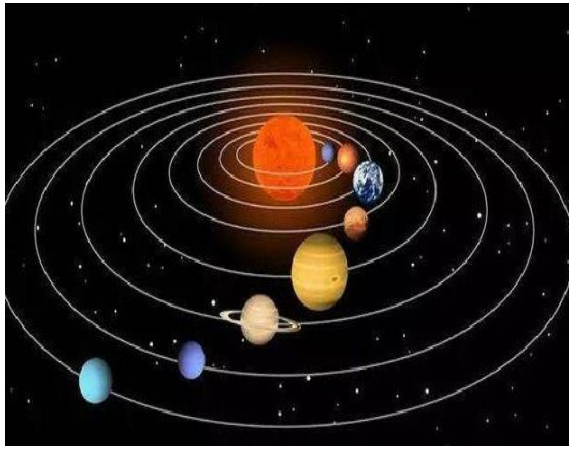
Moreover, the amazing work these people do can provide education and inspiration for the next generation. For me personally, this is by far the biggest reason for humanity to explore space. Such wonders as a space shuttle launch or astronauts walking on the Moon are incredibly exciting and inspiring to witness, and it can be these moments that shape children's lives forever and motivate them to become the scientists and engineers of the future. It is this kind of inspiration that keeps our thirst for knowledge alive and ensures that advances in space exploration and many other fields will continue to be made. When you have seen a man walk on the Moon, you grow up believing that anything is possible!

Para. 1: introduction

"That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind."

— Neil Armstrong





"We would be regularly visiting other planets in our solar system and would even dare to travel ***beyond it****."*

Para. 1: introduction

1. What is the reality of space exploration? *(Use adjectives to describe it)*

difficult dangerous time-consuming money-consuming

2. How does the author introduce the topic?

By presenting the reality of space exploration and some concerns/doubts about it.

Para. 2: natural curiosity

Humans are curious about _the unknown_.

visit thick and wild forests

climb vast mountain ranges

cross deep oceans

explore space

Para. 2: natural curiosity

- **Why does the author quote the saying of Stephen Hawking?**

"Remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious." (Lines 13-15)

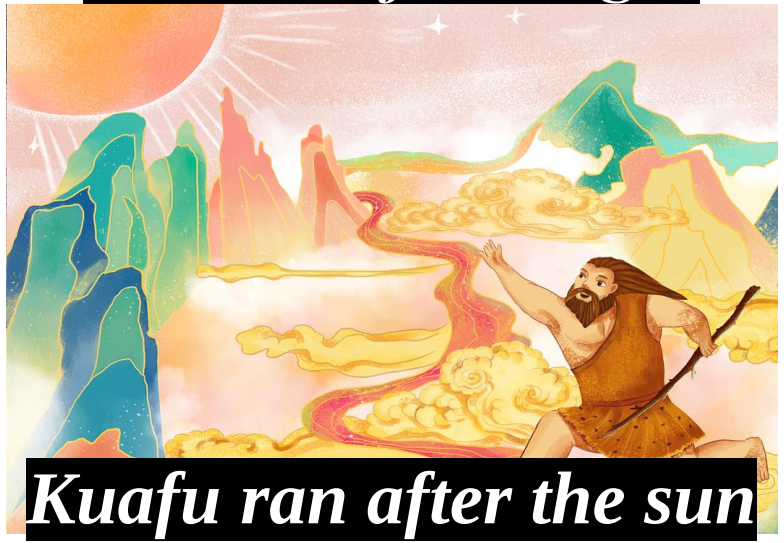
The author **quotes** Hawking's words to show that it is basic human nature to be curious about the universe. In other words, he encouraged us to be curious. Without curiosity, no mysteries would be solved and no progress could be made. Each small step may further lead to a great leap in discovering more.

Para. 2: natural curiosity

- Do you know any ancient tale that reflect human's curiosity?

The tale of Chang'e

Wanhu challenged the space



Kuafu ran after the sun

Galileo's telescope

Para. 2: natural curiosity

- **How do you understand the sentence?**

"With each space mission comes greater insight, thus motivating us to continue along the same path of adventure." (Lines 17-18)

In the continuous process of adventuring into new places, humans become more _insightful_ (insight) and _knowledgeable_ (knowledge) about the universe, which _in turn_ motivates mankind to explore further.

Para. 3: better understanding

1. What fundamental questions can exploring space address?

Questions about our place in the universe and the history of our solar system.

2. What facts have been confirmed and what questions remain to be answered?

Facts: the Earth is round and that it orbits the Sun.

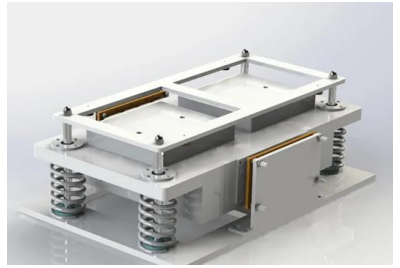
Questions: whether there is life on other planets?

Para. 4: wide applications

1. **How does the author support his argument?**

   By giving examples.

2. **What are the examples mentioned?**

Applications	Functions
Earthquake shock absorbers (地震减震器)	To protect buildings and save lives 
Liquid hydrogen (液态氢)	To mass-produce and launch hydrogen fuel cell vehicles (氢能源电车) 

Para. 4: wide applications

- **Do you know any other applications of space exploration technology?**

mobile navigation

weather forecast

dried or freeze-dried food

baby diapers

Para. 5: economic value

What economic benefits do space exploration bring?

It can also provide a variety of career opportunities for young people.

Para. 6: education and inspiration

- **How can the space exploration educate and inspire the next generation?**

Shape children's lives forever ;

Motivate the young to aim high ;

Keep their thirst for knowledge alive ;

Ensure further advances.

Discussion

- **Why does the author think providing education and inspiration for the next generation is the biggest reason for space exploration? Do you agree or not? Why?**

Children are a nation's and even the world's future. Humans should not only pass on knowledge, but also ensure future generations have a thirst for knowledge. Amazing work done by great scientists, astronauts and other support staff may deeply inspire children to work hard.


The dream that you dare to dream really comes true!

5 Reasons for space exploration

Summary: writing techniques

1. What's the genre of this magazine article?

An argumentative essay.

2. What are the writing techniques the author uses to make his argumentation more persuasive?

- ✓ Quoting
- ✓ Giving examples

Homework

☐ Compulsory one:

Write a summary of this article with no more than 150 words.

☐ Optional one:

If you disagree with the author's opinion, write an argumentative essay to **argue against** space exploration.
*(Apply **the writing techniques** we've learnt to your writing)*


Thank
you