

1. The collective groupthink of NASA led to numerous instances of neglect on each level of the organization. Under strict deadlines, engineers were instructed to cut corners and put safety aside to meet said deadlines. Many of the NASA administrators believed that the organization wasn't capable of shortcomings, fostering a mood of general apathy amongst the top brass. In addition to this, the Regan administration put political aspirations above common sense, forcing NASA engineers to put their worries aside to meet deadlines. This reluctance to listen to the worries of the engineers and the group thinking seen within the organization as a whole contributed to the disaster that was Challenger.
2. Group polarization is the phenomenon in which members of a group are more likely to take on increased risks when in a group as opposed to being alone. During the construction of challenger, many of the scientists and engineers were told to take on extreme risks in order to meet deadlines. This form of group polarization creates an environment in which safety took a back seat to performance, contributing to the disastrous launch and crash of Challenger.
3. Social facilitation is a phenomenon where individuals perform better when they believe there is someone near or around them. During the construction of Challenger, many of the engineers were some of the best in their field, dedicated to the construction of Challenger and the promotion of NASA. The members of the team were unknowingly placing intense pressure on each other by their mere presence, influencing other engineers to work harder and possibly cut corners in order to feel as if they belonged.
4. Social Loafing is the inverse of social facilitation. Where social facilitation sees individuals push themselves in group settings, social loafing sees individuals falter in group environments. In the case of Challenger, social loafing contributed to the disaster, as many members of the group could have faltered in their participation due to many of the group members working harder.
5. One of the major takeaways for Challenger is how we can gauge group dynamics. In high stakes environments such as Challenger, we must give the group members adequate time and comfort in these environments. Due to the high stress, many of the group members can suffer psychological stress and feel forced to push themselves as hard as possible to fit into the group. Because of this, things such as breaks, and positive environments are essential to healthy groups.