**Video Title:** Challenger Space Shuttle Disaster

**Video URL:** [**http://www.history.com/topics/challenger-disaster/videos/engineering-disasters---challenger**](http://www.history.com/topics/challenger-disaster/videos/engineering-disasters---challenger)

**Run Time/Source:** 3:00, History Channel

**Close Caption Available:** Yes

Groupthink is described in pages 234-235of the textbook. This video presents a brief overview of what has become perhaps the most famous all-time example of groupthink—the explosion of the space shuttle *Challenger* on January 28, 1986. NASA managers were so committed to reaching space program objectives that they ignored safety warnings about the O-rings from people both within and outside the agency. As shown in the video, the outside temperature was too cold for safe use of sealing rings. Not shown in the video was a NASA briefing paper dated July 20, 1986, reported that both astronauts and engineers expressed concern that the agency’s management had a group-think mentality.

*Questions for Thought and Discussion*

1. If rocket scientists are supposed to be smart, how could they fall prey to groupthink?

2. Why wasn’t everybody involved in this incident of groupthink fired?

3. To what extent do you find it shocking and surprising that groupthink can have life and death consequences?

4. What link do you see between group thinking and risk taking?

5. What is the career takeaway for you from this video about the dreadful potential consequences of groupthink?