Persuasive writing assignment—Launch of the Challenger

You are asked to take the position of Morton Thiokol engineer Roger Boisjoly after he learns his recommendation against launching of the Shuttle Challenger has been rejected. The rejection is not final, however, as your verbal arguments have been successful in delaying Morton Thiokol’s final launch decision until the next morning. You are asked to prepare, overnight, a short (maximum two pages, double spaced) executive summary of the reasons for your recommendation against a launch decision. Prepare this in the form of a memorandum addressed to Mr. Robert Lund, P.E., Vice-President of Engineering, Morton Thiokol. (The memo will carry your name, not Mr. Boisjoly’s name.)

This assignment is due Friday, Sept. 19, at recitation.