English 2

Into Thin Air Brainstorm: Literary response

In Jon Krakauer's, Into Thin Air, we follow the events leading up to one of the deadliest Everest summit attempts to date. Explain what, ultimately, was at the core of the disaster of the 1996 summit attempt.

1. Lack of experience climbers
   1. Slowed downed group and guides
      1. Longer wait times equals higher chance of climbing past turnaround time
   2. When turned for the worst people did not know what to do
      1. Not enough, experienced people to deal with the situation
   3. Big egos
   4. People tried to do more than they could do
      1. People trying to save others when they could not even save themselves
         1. Rob Hall and Andy Harris
2. Pressure of money
   1. Summit fever – making ill-advised decisions on the money that was spent
      1. Rob hall staying behind with him and they both died
   2. Social pressure to not waste the money
   3. Tibet and china issuing permits
3. Poor decision making
   1. Andy Harris decision to try to save peer
      1. Andy Harris dies
   2. Altitude sickness
      1. Lower brain function
      2. Lack of o2 to brain
         1. Empty vs. non-empty non o2 containers
         2. Andy Harris
4. Miscommunication
5. Thought that they have too much experience
   1. Rob Hall’s all previous seasons had good luck no one died
   2. Rob Hall thought that he could be a good enough climber to bring down two people by himself
      1. Rob hall and fisher
6. Timing
   1. The time that everyone happened to climb at was the time that the storm hit
      1. All previous climbs for (at least) Rob Hall were good weather indicating that this was extreme ‘bad luck’
   2. Everyone decided to go around the same time everyone else was climbing
   3. They went past their planned time
7. Relaxed regulations
   1. If the people planning the climb had prepared always for the worst, it could have prevented the outcome
   2. The two countries wanted people to come to give money so they had less in the way for people to make it to come