

Abraham Lincoln

The Gettysburg Address

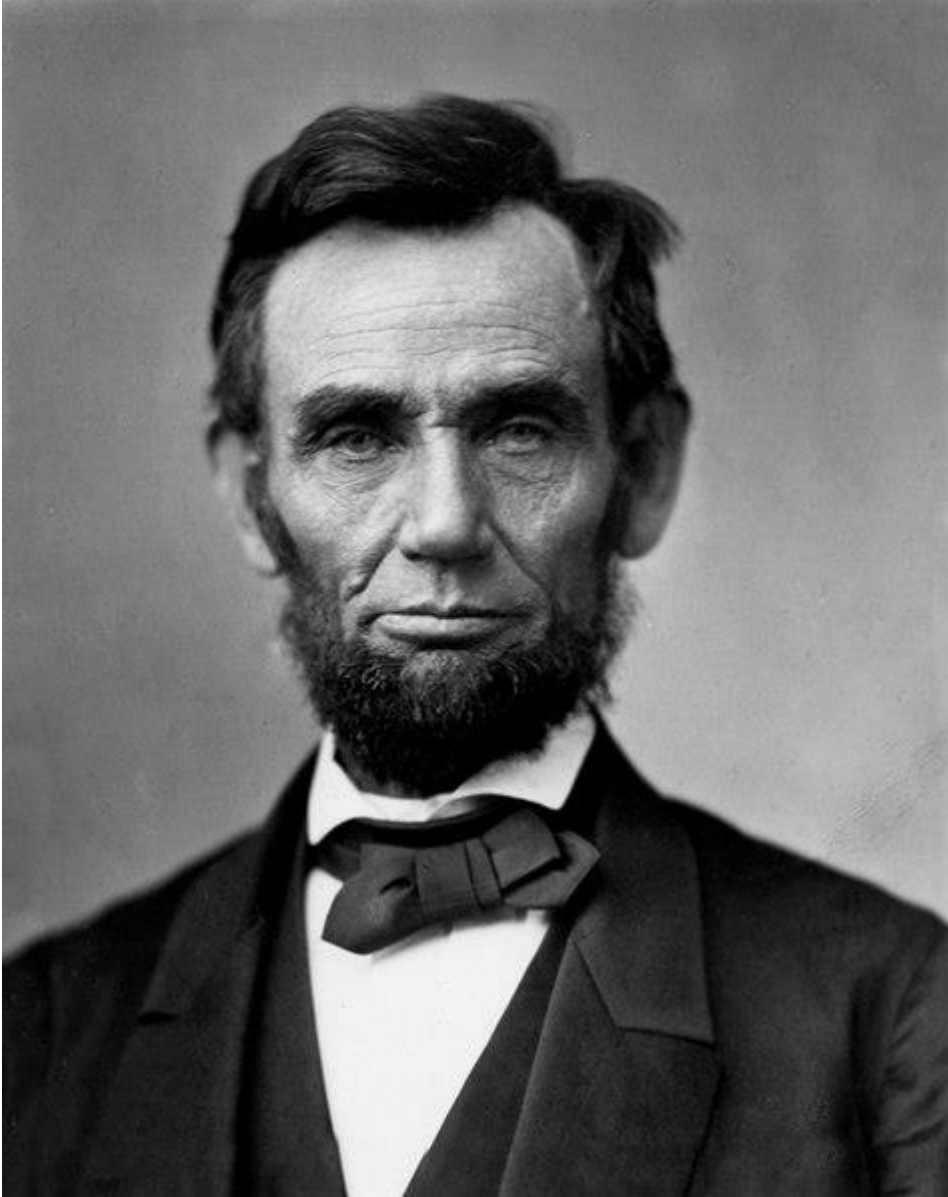
Analyzing the text:

1. In the first paragraph, identify the theme of the Declaration of Independence.
2. Why did Lincoln write and deliver the Gettysburg Address? What was his two main purposes? Explain using evidence from the speech.

Authors use **rhetoric**—the art of using specific words—and **rhetorical devices**, such as repeating words for emphasis, to advance a purpose.

2. Identify an example of repetition in the first lines. What might Lincoln's purpose have been in repeating a certain word?

3. **Infer** What is “the unfinished work” of those who died (line 16)?



4. **Infer** What does Lincoln mean when he refers to “a new birth of freedom” (line 22)? Explain your response with evidence from the text.

5. **Identify Patterns** The word *dedicate* is repeated several times in the speech. What does *dedicate* mean? What idea does Lincoln emphasize with the repetition of this word?

6. Seminal texts often include a **call to action**, a request to do or take part in something. Cite the lines that state the actions the speaker believes should be taken.

Parallelism is a form in which a grammatical pattern is repeated. Parallelism is used to create rhythm and evoke emotions.

7. Identify two examples of parallelism in the speech. How does Lincoln use parallel structure to persuade the audience to accept his message?

Example of Parallelism	Explanation

8. Seminal U.S. documents often refer to themes and ideals that are important to the audience they address. What is the theme, or underlying message, of the Gettysburg Address? Are those themes still important today? Explain the underlying message and the American ideals that the speech upholds.