**Gettysburg Address**

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Abraham Lincoln  
November 19, 1863

Paraphrased:

87 years ago, the Founding Fathers created a brand new country here based on the idea that everyone is equal.

Now, we are at war with ourselves, and this war is testing whether that kind of country can survive.  A battle of this war was fought right here where we are standing.  We are here today to dedicate a part of this battlefield as a cemetery for the soldiers that died here. This is the right thing to do.

There is no way that we can ever bless this ground today more than the soldiers that died here already have.  We can’t even come close.  No one is going to care or remember the words we say here, but no one can ever forget what those soldiers did here.  It’s up to the rest of us that are still alive to dedicate ourselves to finishing what these soldiers have started.  It’s up to us to dedicate ourselves to saving the country, and remind ourselves that people have died for this cause.  We have to promise that the soldiers here did not die for nothing. We have to promise that this country, under God, will be free again.  We have to promise that a country that is made up of the people, was created by the people, and made to serve the people can exist in this world.

***How did Lincoln reference the Declaration of Independence? Why would he do so?***

***Lincoln states, “The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.” What does he mean by this statement?***

***How would Lincoln add morality (right over wrong) to the war with his message?***

***Though seen as a very short speech, why would it be viewed as one of the greatest speeches in American history?***