

What if we had Twitter during Lincoln's greatest speech?



Background:

Abraham Lincoln's speech at the dedication of the Soldier's National Cemetery at Gettysburg, PA, almost five months after the battle, may be the best-known and greatest speech in American History. **Lincoln redefined the Civil War, and the United States of America, as a difficult but honorable struggle for human equality.** The speech lasted two minutes.

The reaction to the speech, according to historical sources, was generally positive. There is rumor, which has no basis, that Lincoln was upset with the speech, saying: "It won't scour." This was slang for "It was no good." This isn't true. Abraham Lincoln, and the crowd, seemed to be satisfied with the speech.

The media reaction, however, was not always so favorable. We have to remember that **Lincoln was a Republican, who was up for reelection soon.** The Democrat-leaning newspaper, Chicago Times, famously wrote:

"The cheek of every American must tingle with shame as he reads the silly, flat and dishwatery utterances of the man who has to be pointed out to intelligent foreigners as the President of the United States."

In other words, they thought the speech was ridiculous and silly, especially for an American president.

Your job:

Ever heard of “Live Tweeting?” Of course you have. It’s like when you watch the VMA Awards and make comments on what everyone is saying and wearing. We are going to pretend that they had Twitter back in 1863 when Lincoln was making his speech.

Before you start tweeting, **you need to decide whether you support Lincoln or are against Lincoln.** We all love Lincoln now, but back then many Democrats and even Republicans had problems with him.

If you are against Lincoln:

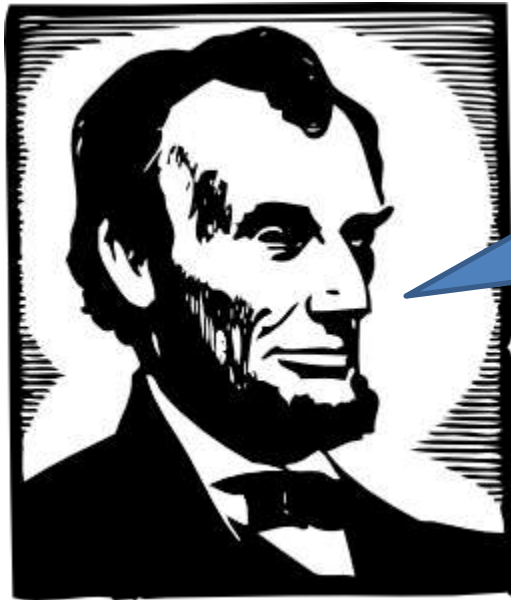
- You might be a Democrat who wants to end the war. You feel like Lincoln has gone too far with his Emancipation Proclamation.
- You might be an abolitionist who wants thinks Lincoln hasn’t gone far enough. You want less talk and more action. You want citizenship and suffrage for all blacks.

If you support Lincoln:

- You might be a Republican. You realize that Lincoln is doing the best he can in a fractious environment.
- You might be a soldier or a veteran. You believe Lincoln is the best man to lead the country.

Circle one of the above. Your tweets will reflect your position.

Good! OK, you will make **six tweets** for each section. Let me give you an example of some possible tweet so you're not lost!



FOUR SCORE AND
SEVEN YEARS
AGO, OUR
FATHERS...

He better not be comparing
himself to G. Washington.
#Gettysburg #Dems

That's right! This is a real revolution!
#Gettysburg #military

As you can see, I made two tweets. One of them supports Lincoln; the other is against Lincoln. Both of them are comments **directly** on what he is saying. As we will now learn, the quote above means: "87 years ago, the founding fathers... ." So, he is setting the stage for his speech as the founding of the nation. I also put hastags that represent my position! #gocrazy #havefun #schoolappropriateplease

Directions:

1. I will read through and explain each section. I will pause and give you time to make a tweet.
2. At the end of the activity, you should have six tweets. We will share.

The 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.

[87 Years Ago, the USA was founded. It was an experiment in democracy and we had some really great things to live up to...]

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 in this fight so we can test whether or not we were for real about a democracy where all men are created equal...]

We are met on a great battlefield 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.

[We are here in a cemetery to honor men who have actually died for this idea. These guys talked the talk and walked the walk...]

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.

[We can talk all we want about these great ideas but the men who died have already given the ultimate sacrifice: they died for these ideas.]



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.

[Maybe nobody will ever remember these speeches we give... we're just talking. But the WORLD, not just America, can never forget what the men died for and what they want to see the USA become!]



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.

[So what can we really do? Well, we can remember the dead and fight on. That's what they want us to do. They want us to fight on so that this amazing country we have—which is unique in the world—can really live up to the Declaration of Independence. We need to fight so we can really say that this is a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. If we quit now, the ideals of the USA will disappear from the Earth!]



What's happening? ✕

  140 Tweet



What's happening? ✕

  140 Tweet



What's happening? ✕

  140 Tweet



What's happening? ✕

  140 Tweet

What's happening? ✕

  140 Tweet

What's happening? ✕

  140 Tweet

Students Working



ANTI-LINCOLN

GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

PRO-LINCOLN

QUOTA #

Thomas Jefferson
Madisonian Talker

The Gettysburg Address

"These American men..."

"I have not been engaged in a great..."

"We are met on a great..."

"I think it is enough..."

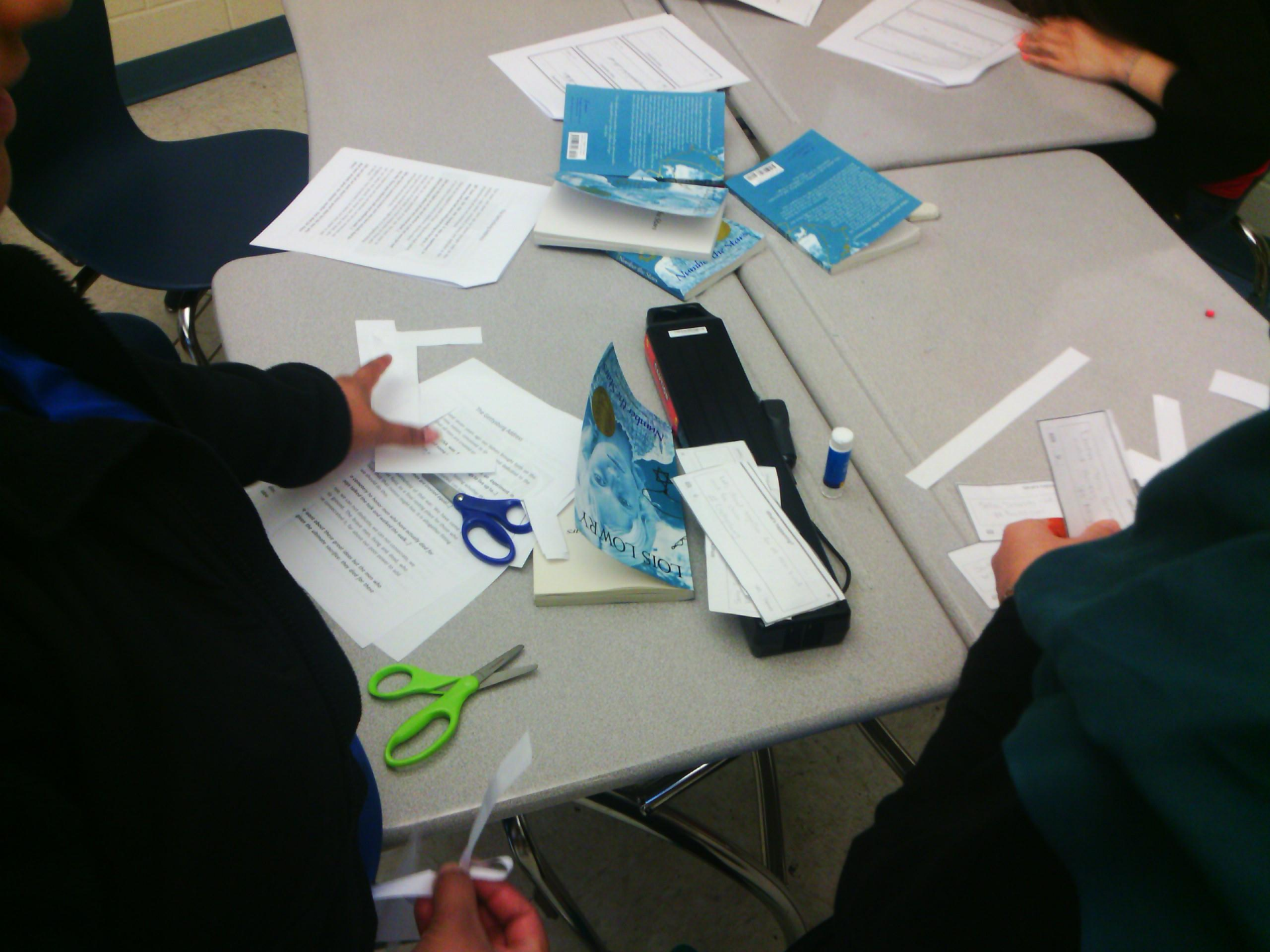
"The general..."

"It is for us to..."

Handwritten notes on small pieces of paper, some with red markings, attached to the whiteboard.

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GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

ANTI-SLAVERY

Four years and seven months ago the nation's longest war in its history was begun. Confined to military and political action, the struggle that all men are created equal.

You are not a great nation, yet you are a great people. You are not a great nation, yet you are a great people. You are not a great nation, yet you are a great people.

But in a long struggle we can not continue, we can not continue, we can not continue. We can not continue, we can not continue, we can not continue.

The world is full of men and women who are not free, but in our hearts we know that they are. We know that they are not free, but in our hearts we know that they are.

It is not in the stars or in the sky that we find our freedom, it is not in the stars or in the sky that we find our freedom, it is not in the stars or in the sky that we find our freedom.

What we have done is to give to the world a new birth of freedom, and we shall be true to that birth of freedom, and we shall be true to that birth of freedom.

It is not in the stars or in the sky that we find our freedom, it is not in the stars or in the sky that we find our freedom, it is not in the stars or in the sky that we find our freedom.

Number The Stars

Literary Elements

Character Setting Theme

Antagonist Protagonist

Conflict

What's happening?
So if you go to the USA was founded I can't believe how did I wish change to Great all and #feeling happy

What's happening?
What order to say how the scale of the soldiers who died on the battle field should be in the I got happy #for Abraham II

What's happening?
So Abraham is saying that mans sacrifice is the best way to show respect to your country! #all

What's happening?
Dennis... #Niggers... #Niggers... #Niggers

What's happening?
I can't believe how did I wish change to Great all and #feeling happy

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The Gettysburg Address

Phrase

What I think it
means?

What it really
means.

*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. . . can
long endure.*

*We are met on a great
battlefield of that war.
We have come to dedicate
a portion of that field. . .*

*But... 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... can never
forget what they did here.
... 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
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