

# Gettysburg Address & Emancipation Proclamation

**Contextualization: *Emancipation Proclamation - January 1863***

[Watch this short video clip on the Emancipation Proclamation.](#) Answer the following question to prepare you to analyze the Emancipation Proclamation.

- 1) Why did Lincoln write the Emancipation Proclamation?

*The text of the Emancipation Proclamation is excerpted below. Analyze the text and answer the analysis questions.*

**Text of the Emancipation Proclamation - 1863**

“...That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord, 1863, all persons held as slaves within any state that is in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free; and the Executive Gov’t of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom...

....And by virtue of the power, and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States (those in rebellion)...are henceforward free...to abstain from all violence, unless necessary self-defense, and I recommend to them that, in all cases when allowed, they labor faithfully for reasonable wages... And I further declare and make known that such persons of suitable condition, will be received into the armed service of the United States to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places within the army or navy....”

**Analysis Questions**

- 1) Lincoln only freed the slaves in certain states through the Emancipation Proclamation - which states were these? (Hint: Look at lines 1 - 2.)
  
- 2) The Emancipation Proclamation is often viewed by historians as a strategy to win the Civil War. Why might they see it that way? Cite evidence from the text to support your claims.

**Contextualization: *The Gettysburg Address* - November 1863**

[Watch this short clip](#) on the Gettysburg Address. Answer the following three questions below to prepare you to analyze the Gettysburg Address.

- 1) Why was Lincoln at Gettysburg (what event was taking place)?
- 2) How many words is the Gettysburg address? How long did it take him to deliver the address?
- 3) Did Lincoln think his speech was a success?

*At 3:38 - a reading of the Gettysburg Address begins. Follow along with the text below and answer the subsequent analysis questions.*

**Text of the Gettysburg Address (November 1863):**

“Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon 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 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. 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”

**Analysis Questions**

- 1) When Lincoln says “Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth....” he is referring to the year 1776.
  - a) What events in 1776 was Lincoln referring to? What happened 87 years before 1863?
  - b) Why might Lincoln refer the audience to think about that particular year when they are burying soldiers who fought in the Civil War?

- 2) In reflecting on the founding of the country, Lincoln describes "...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..." What is Lincoln implying are the reasons for fighting the Civil War? [Hint: Think about equality and freedom.]
  
- 3) What is the "unfinished" work or "great task remaining before" the American people?
  
- 4) What is the "new birth of freedom" Lincoln calls for?
  - a) Who benefited from independence and freedom in 1776 and how is that different from who benefits from independence and freedom AFTER the Civil War / Emancipation Proclamation?
  
- 5) Do you think we have lived up to the message in the Gettysburg Address as a nation? Why or why not? Cite one example from US History to support your claim.