

## The Gettysburg Address

Lincoln held his famous Gettysburg Address for the opening ceremony of the new Gettysburg graveyard on 19 November, 1863. It had taken four months to assemble all the dead soldiers in graves after the terrible battle of Gettysburg, PA which took place July, 1 to 3, 1863, which was the turning point of the American Civil War. Up until then the Confederate States were on the winning side, the North States simply needed too long to form a suitable army and strengthen their infrastructure.

When reading Lincoln's speech keep in mind the American Civil War did not end until 1865, so the US were still engaged in the terrible war. Yet, on this day American people came together to commemorate American soldiers.

Today the Gettysburg Address is considered to be one of the finest pieces of rhetorical art and one of the most important parts of American cultural-historical history.

“**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.

5 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.

10 But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate -- we cannot consecrate -- we cannot 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 15 for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honoured 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 20 people, shall not perish from the earth.”

- Analyse the structure of Lincoln's speech. How is the content defining the outer structure of the speech?
- Analyse the stylistic devices Abraham Lincoln uses to make his speech appealing to his audience.