



Lincoln Idea Card

Grade Level:
9-12

Lincoln's Speeches

Lesson idea:

Students analyze Abraham Lincoln's speeches.

Open:

As a class, discuss what makes a speech memorable. Ask students: How are political speeches important today? Tell them that President Abraham Lincoln is renowned for his speeches and that they will examine several of his speeches through viewing a presentation of them. Tell them to create a timeline of Lincoln's significant speeches and write key memorable phrases from each speech as they watch *Lincoln Seen and Heard*, a multimedia presentation featuring actor Sam Waterston, Lincoln scholar Harold Holzer, and real images and words of Lincoln.

The following information should be included for each speech:

Year:

Name of speech (if applicable):

Location:

Key memorable phrase:

Quote from speech:

Meaning:

Show:

Lincoln Seen and Heard, available online at www.ket.org/lincoln/resources.htm.

Note: If time doesn't allow for the viewing of the full video segment, you may choose to have students listen to audio clips of readings from the Gettysburg Address and the Lincoln-Douglas debates. Students could then research primary source information to look for meaningful excerpts from the Gettysburg Address, Lincoln-Douglas Debates, Second Inaugural Address and Cooper Union Speech.

Expand:

Have students do additional research to identify a memorable quote from each speech. (Text of speeches can be found at www.lincolnbicentennial.gov/lincolns-life/words-and-speeches/default.aspx). Have each student select a short passage from one speech to recite or read to the class. Students should be prepared to discuss the rationale for their quote selection and the significance of Abraham Lincoln's comments historically.

Kentucky Standards: social studies-belief systems define culture and explain historical perspectives; drama-performance elements in speaking

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