

The Gettysburg Address

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Historical Paper

Paper: 1,607 words

Process Paper: 409 words

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources

History.com Editors, A&E Television Networks, LLC. "The Gettysburg Address." History.com, A&E Television Networks, 24 Aug. 2010, <https://www.history.com/topics/american-civil-war/gettysburg-address>. From this website I got the timeline of what happened after the Battle of Gettysburg. I also got facts from what the public reaction to Lincoln's speech was.

National Geographic Society. "Gettysburg Address." *National Geographic Society*, 13 Mar. 2020, [://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/gettysburg-address/](https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/gettysburg-address/). From this website I got the famous speech of Abraham Lincoln. I was also to get part of the speech from Edward Everett.

Secondary Sources

Cornell University library. "A Copy for a Good Cause." *The Gettysburg Address*, 2013, https://rnc.library.cornell.edu/gettysburg/good_cause/transcript.htm. From this website I was able to get some of the speech given by Edward Everett. I was also able to get photos and some accounts of the battle.

Museum, Abraham Lincoln Presidential. "The Gettysburg Address." *Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum*, 2022, <https://presidentlincoln.illinois.gov/visit/whats-inside/exhibits/online-exhibits/gettysburg-address-everett-copy/>. From this website I was able to get several different versions of the Gettysburg Address. The one copy I found is known as the Everett copy.

Swanson, James L. *Chasing Lincoln's Killer*. Paw Prints, 2011. From this book I learned about the days after the Gettysburg Address. I was able to get the whole story on how John Wilkes Booth killed Abraham Lincoln. I also got the story of how Booth was chased down by Union soldiers and killed.

Process Paper Questions

1. How did you choose your topic and how does it relate to the annual theme?

I chose my topic because I wanted to learn more about The Gettysburg Address. The Battle of Gettysburg Address was important to debate and diplomacy because it helped people to remember what the USA was founded on and how everyone is equal.

2. How did you conduct your research?

I went online to look at websites and also read a book about The Gettysburg Address. The information I found was the before and after of Abraham Lincoln's famous speech.

3. How did you create your project?

I decided to create a paper as the choice for my project.

4. What is your historical argument?

The Gettysburg Address effected the outcome of the Civil War and it effected both the Union and the Confederate soldiers on how they fought.

5. In what ways is your topic significant in history?

The Battle of Gettysburg Address was important to debate and diplomacy because it helped people to remember what the USA was founded on and how everyone is equal.

The Battle of Gettysburg was a bloody battle and was a big turning point for the Civil War and the presidency of Abraham Lincoln. There were many things that led up to the Battle of Gettysburg. After the battle there were many good things that happened. Along with those good things were many bad things. The Gettysburg Address was important to debate and diplomacy because it helped people to remember what the USA was founded on and how everyone is equal.

On November 6, 1860 the reputation of United States was changed. The sixteenth president of the United States, Abraham Lincoln was elected as president. He was the first Republican president of the nation who represented a party that opposed the spread of slavery in the territories in the United States. Then, after the election there were seven southern states that seceded from the Union in December and January. These states then made their own government and became their own separate group of states in early February. They became known as the Confederate States of America. Their government that they created was located in Montgomery, Alabama. In late February a man named Jefferson Davis was appointed the first President of the Confederate States of America. He had taken that position and was to withhold that position. On February 22, 1862 there was an official election for him to become the president of the Confederates and Davis was elected by the people. He then won the election and became the president of the Confederate States of America. On March 4, 1861 Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated the sixteenth president of the United States of America in Washington, DC.

On April 12, 1861 Southern forces started the battle of Fort Sumter in South Carolina. The Civil War had officially begun at this point. President Lincoln made a public declaration that an insurrection exists. He then called for 75,000 militia soldiers to help to stop the rebellion. After ordering this call for volunteers 4 more southern states seceded from the Union. Lincoln responded to this on May 3 with another call for 43,000 volunteers to serve for 3 years. This helped to expand the size of the Regular Army.

The next important battle happened in the month of July and was called the Battle of Bull Run. This battle was fought near Manassas, Virginia. Here the leader of the battle changed several times.

Another thing that happened was that a man named Thomas Jonathan Jackson received the name “Stonewall” Jackson. Jackson was on the Confederate side and when the Confederates were starting to lose the battle he stood there proud as if they were winning the battle. This gave the retreating soldiers hope and they were able to come back and win the battle of Bull Run.

In the beginning of August the Union Army attacked The Confederate troops and the Missouri militia southwest of Springfield, Missouri. The Union lost to the Confederates and also lost their General Nathaniel Lyon during the battle. This Confederate victory emphasized the strong southern presence west of the Mississippi River. This battle was known as the Battle of Wilson’s Creek.

Another important date was February 16, 1862. On this day the primary southern fort for the Union on the Cumberland River left of the river bank was captured by the Confederate army. Here is where the Union was caught off guard and was quickly surrounded and General Ulysses S. Grant had to surrender. This is the place that Grant gained his nickname “Unconditional Surrender”.

April 6 and 7 was the first major battle in Tennessee. 1 of the finest officers of the South was killed on the first day. The outcome of the battle was a Union victory. This helped to secure the career of Union General Ulysses S. Grant. The name of this battle became known as the Battle of Shiloh.

In September the bloodiest, single day battle, of the whole Civil War was fought. This battle was known as the Battle of Antietam, Maryland. The result of the battle was General Lee’s first invasion of the North. After the Union victory President Abe Lincoln introduced the Emancipation Proclamation. This was an executive order that freed all slaves in the Confederate States.

After a few more small battles on July 1, 1863 The Battle of Gettysburg was fought between the Confederates and the Union. It was one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War. There was lots of gunfire and casualties. For a long three days men fought and died for what they believed in. These men either wanted to have slavery or were opposed to slavery. These men had very different opinions on whether slavery was good or bad for each of them. After the battle, Abraham Lincoln had only a

few words that took him two minutes to say but it was more empowering than the two hour speech from a man known as Edward Everett. Lincoln had a few key points in the words that he had said.

The first point is that this country was founded on liberty. This can also be translated as people's freedom to do as they want or please. America is a free country. You are able to have your own business and be able to own that business and the property that it sits on. We also have the freedom to protest if we disagree with what the government has said or done.

The next point is that all men are created equal. With America being a free country it also means that everyone has equal rights. No matter what race people are they are all able to achieve the same goals if they are willing to put in the work.

The third point Lincoln made was that the battlefield will be a dedication to the men that died there. Many men died fighting for the nation that they loved. They fought for something they believed strongly in and were willing to lose their life for that cause. Even today we are at war with other countries and people who have a strong belief for something they believe in. These people who die for the country of the United States of America are remembered by the American flag. The flag is a dedication to these people. This was the same point that Lincoln was making. He said that the field that they fought on would a memorial for the men that died there. He was also saying that no matter what they do to remember and respect the men that died there it will never be enough because the men had lost their lives. The men that fought there have made the ground more sacred then people could ever dedicate it to the men. Abraham Lincoln had said that no one will remember what was said on this field but everyone will remember what was done this day on the field.

The last point from Abe was that it is better for the living to be dedicated to the unfinished work that the men have started then to dedicate the men that have already started the work. It would be better for the people still living to finish the work that the dead men have already started. We should want to do the work more now that these men have died. He was also saying that the men should not

die in vain. If the men had started the work but were unable to finish and nobody finishes it for them then there was no point for the men to even start the task.

After Lincoln had finished his speech there were lots of people who were there to spread the word about his speech all across the United States of America. There were lots of people who liked his speech but there were also many people that hated it. The fighting still went on though. Slowly the Union was able to gain ground and eventually won the Civil War. This speech also helped the Northern states known as the Union to win the war. The confederate General Lee surrendered to Union General Grant in the spring of 1865 officially ended the war. On April 9, 1865 the documents were signed and General Lee officially surrendered. The United States had finally come back together again and was reunited and became one country again known as the United States of America.

Abraham Lincoln had one big problem though. Shortly after the civil war had ended, On April 14, 1865, President Lincoln was shot in the head and killed by a man Named John Wilkes Booth. Booth was a famous actor on a national stage who was in favor of slavery and a supporter of the confederates. While Lincoln was at Ford's Theater, Booth was able to get in and shoot Lincoln. He then fled the scene and was chased for twelve days until he was killed by some Union soldiers.

The Battle of Gettysburg was a bloody battle and a was a big turning point for the Civil War and the presidency of Abraham Lincoln. Abraham Lincoln played big part in the civil war. He even lost his life to end slavery once and for all. There is still slavery that goes on today. The Battle of Gettysburg Address was important to debate and diplomacy because it helped people to remember what the USA was founded on and how everyone is equal. There are people that work to stop these people. Lincoln helped to end the civil war and the Battle of Gettysburg was the place where he was able to do that.