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Lesson

Unit: Persuasion Across Time and Space:
Analyzing and Producing Complex Texts

Lesson: Persuasion in Historical Context: *The Gettysburg Address*

Handout #3: The Battle of Gettysburg

The Battle of Gettysburg was one of the **bloodiest battles**¹ of the **Civil War**². Fought in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, the battle involved 75,000 Confederate (South) soldiers and 90,000 Union (North) soldiers; over 40,000 men were killed and many more injured during the three-day battle.

When the battle was over, the residents of Gettysburg suggested creating a national **cemetery**³ on the site, as the **bodies of soldiers and horses** were **rotting**⁴ in the sun, and needed to be quickly buried beneath the soil. A United States Cemetery Board of Commissions was placed in charge of creating the national cemetery. For the formal dedication of the cemetery, they chose Edward Everett of Massachusetts to give a speech, as he was one of the best-known speakers in America at the time. They also invited president Lincoln, generals, and government officials. While Everett's speech was to be the **highlight**⁵, President Lincoln was asked to **wrap up**⁶ the event with **concluding**⁷ comments and remarks.

One of the reasons that the *Gettysburg Address* **remains**⁸ significant to this day is that while Edward Everett's speech went on for a total of two hours and four minutes, President Lincoln spoke for only two minutes, and his speech contained only ten sentences. Later, Everett wrote to Lincoln and stated, "I should be glad if I could flatter myself that I came as near to the central idea of the occasion in two hours as you did in two minutes."

notes

¹A battle that had the most wounded and dead soldiers

²A war between people of different regions or areas within the same country or nation

³Where dead people are buried

⁴Bodies started to decompose and smell

⁵The best part

⁶Lincoln's speech was supposed to be just something small to end the event

⁷The comments or words that come at the end

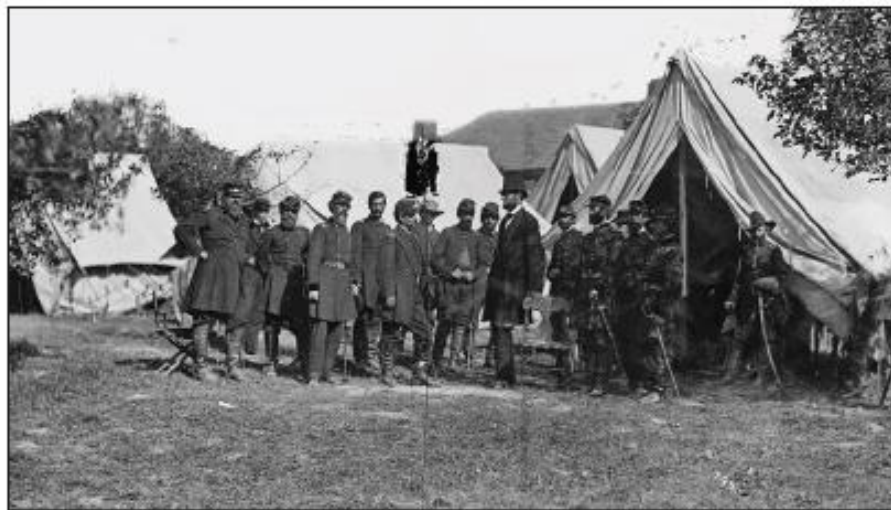
⁸Continues to be remembered and quoted

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Handout #6: Civil War Photos





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Handout #7: Photograph Response

Select one photograph that stands out to your group to analyze further. Describe the photograph, completing the following information. After you have described the photographs, write a caption and post the captions below the picture/photos on the wall.

PHOTOGRAPH

General description: This is a picture of

Number of people: Number of men or boys: Number of women or girls:

Describe clothing:

Describe facial expressions:

Describe what is happening in the photograph:

Describe the objects in the photograph:

.....

SETTING OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

Describe as many details as you can identify about the place where the picture was taken (example: in a yard, on a street, etc.):

.....

.....

WRITING A CAPTION

A caption is a short description or explanation of a photograph or picture. It often includes information about what is happening in the picture, where and when the picture was taken, and who is in the picture. Write a caption for one photograph on a strip to paper and post it below the picture on the wall.

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Handout #9: 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.

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 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 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.

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Handout #10: The Gettysburg Address In Four Voices

Directions: Each student chooses one of four fonts (regular font, bold font, underlined font, or italics); when it is your turn to read aloud, you will read your font only.

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, 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 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 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.