

SPEAKING FOCUS



Famous speeches

Abraham Lincoln

“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 _____, 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 _____ 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.

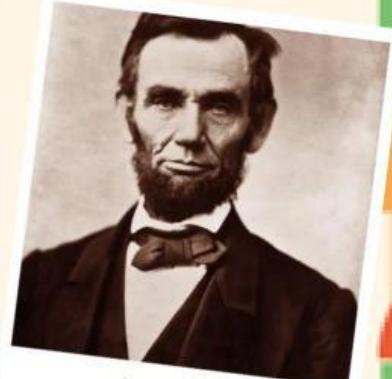
But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated _____ to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did 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

_____ -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people,

”

(The Gettysburg Address, Abraham Lincoln, 1863. Library of Congress)

1. What does Lincoln speech refer to?
2. What do you know about the Civil War?
3. What did Lincoln mean by saying “...these dead shall not have died in vain...”?
4. How would you describe Lincoln’s speech in one single phrase?
5. What did Lincoln mean by saying “...this nation shall have a new birth of freedom...”?



Abraham Lincoln



Developing vocabulary

1. brought forth

2. conceived

3. battlefield

4. struggled

5. remaining

SPEAKING FOCUS



Parts of speech

The **introduction** may well be the most important part of your speech. It is the introduction that will make a **first impression** on your audience. Your **main objective** is to show the audience that listening to the rest of your speech will be enjoyable, informative and relevant.



Fluency

Would she like to get the pink dress or the red dress?

Well, it's difficult to say which one, she would like to get.

1. Would he rather eat pasta or soup?
2. Would she prefer to live in this or that apartment?
3. Would he like to cook potatoes or carrots?
4. Would she wish to buy the blue or the green shoes?
5. Would they desire to go to the musical or the movies?
6. Would he like to buy the CD or the DVD?
7. Would she choose to read books or magazines?
8. Would he prefer to watch cartoons or talk shows?



Listen and discuss

MEMOIR OF A REFUGEE

Why did Juan become a 'marked man'?

Why do you think someone would leave their country in search for freedom?

Should Juan have given up on trying to leave Cuba the first time he had failed?

What questions came to the author's mind after what he witnessed at the airport?



Public
Speaking
Hints

Never miss a chance to use the microphone.

Transcript

Memoir of a Refugee

Juan grew up in Cuba, surrounded by beauty but also oppression. The government controlled every aspect of life, and Juan often saw his family struggle for basic necessities. As a young man, he realized that his dreams for a better future would remain just that—dreams—if he didn’t take action.

At 27, Juan decided to escape. He planned carefully, knowing the risks. However, just as he was about to leave, authorities arrested him. His attempt had failed, and he became a "marked man," watched closely by the government. Despite this setback, Juan refused to give up. The idea of living without freedom haunted him, fueling his determination to try again.

Juan began to plot another escape. This time, he aimed to leave by air, which required more money than he had. He sold belongings and worked odd jobs, keeping his plans secret from everyone. After weeks of preparation, the day finally came. Standing at the airport, his heart raced with a mix of fear and hope. Would he be stopped again?

As he approached security, he recalled the sacrifices he had made. The officer examined his documents, and after what felt like an eternity, he was waved through. Juan could hardly believe it—he was free. As the plane took off, he gazed out the window at Cuba shrinking below him.

This journey was not just about leaving a country; it was about reclaiming control over his life. Juan realized that freedom was worth the risks. His story reflects the resilience of those who dare to pursue a better life, no matter the challenges they face.