



Gettysburg Address Primary Source Questions – Teacher Answer Key

1. For what occasion did Lincoln give this speech?
 - For the dedication of the National Soldier's Cemetery at Gettysburg.
2. What is the mood of Lincoln's speech?
 - The mood of the Address is somber as Lincoln reflects on the lives lost to the war and humbled by the sacrifice that the soldiers made. However, there is an element of responsibility and as Lincoln looks to the future with the goal to continue the mission of the fallen soldiers.
3. What reaction is Lincoln trying to provoke from the audience?
 - Lincoln wants his audience to find inspiration in the sacrifice of the soldiers to continue the mission of the war so that they will not have died in vain.
4. What is Lincoln defending in this speech?
 - Lincoln is defending the war effort for liberty and freedom.
5. Why does this speech resonate with Americans today?
 - Americans will always be able to reflect on the importance of freedom and liberty and honoring those who fought for our Nation. Lincoln also mentioned the importance of honoring the hallowed ground on which the soldiers fought, which is an idea that we should carry into our modern times – the importance of preserving these places.