

The State of Michigan Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Committee
in partnership with
The Michigan Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States
present

ESSAYS ABOUT LINCOLN

A statewide writing contest celebrating Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday.



The words of Abraham Lincoln have inspired many.
His leadership preserved the United States
and his memory is recorded in countless ways.
Has the life of Abraham Lincoln inspired you?

*...write an **ESSAY!***

As a young man, Abraham Lincoln "feared of achieving nothing that would make men remember him." Today, the 16th President tops the list of most influential – and most revered – Americans.

Lincoln is commemorated in music, poetry, and sculpture. His words are quoted by poets and politicians. His face appears on stamps, coins, and currency. Mountains, cities, highways, and schools bearing his name dot the land.

The words of the Gettysburg Address challenge us still today. The Emancipation Proclamation helped bring an end to the practice of slavery. The real man was evident in both the 1861 and 1865 inauguration speeches and in his Thanksgiving proclamations as President.

Indeed, Lincoln's legacy is most alive in our continuous search for freedom, equality, and opportunity.

ESSAY THEMES -

Grades 5-6: Lincoln's Leadership - Then and Now (*What President Lincoln's Life and Leadership Mean to Me*)

Grades 7-8 & 9-12: Lincoln's Leadership - Then and Now (*How President Lincoln's Life and Leadership Inspire Me Today*)

COMPETITION LEVELS—MICHIGAN STUDENTS

LEVEL 1: Grades 5-6

LEVEL 2: Grades 7-8

LEVEL 3: Grades 9-12

AWARDS -

The Michigan Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion and the State of Michigan's Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Committee will award a first-, second-, and third-place winning essay from each of the three competition levels. All winners will receive a color certificate, that includes Governor Jennifer Granholm's signature, and a "portrait" of Abraham Lincoln in the form of a new \$5 bill. Each winner will also receive a figurine or a framed print of Abraham Lincoln. Winning essays may also be published or displayed in various locations or publications.

DEADLINE -

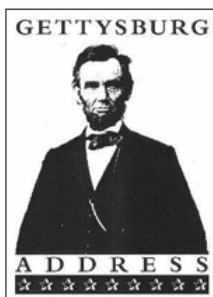
Essays must be postmarked by **April 4, 2009**. Winners will be notified by May 15, 2009.

CONTACT INFORMATION -

For more information, contact the Michigan Commandery at 616.827.3369, or patriotblue1@yahoo.com

GUIDELINES

For submitting your essay



From the
Gettysburg
Address

November 19, 1863

"...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."



ESSAY FORMAT -

Essays must not be more than two pages typed or handwritten. If typed, use a size 12 type font, with the lines double spaced, and the margins must be 1 inch all around. Handwritten pages must be legible. If the judges cannot read the handwriting, the essay will be disqualified.

Write your name and address in the upper right corner of the first page of the essay.

Neatness, content, and demonstration of understanding (education level-appropriate) will be part of the criteria for judging.

ENTRY FORM (SUBMISSION AGREEMENT AND RELEASE FORM) -

Each entry must be accompanied by a dated and signed **ENTRY FORM (SUBMISSION AGREEMENT AND RELEASE FORM)** stapled to the back of your essay (do not use paper clips). It does not have to be printed in color. If your essay is chosen as a winner, you will be contacted by the Essay Committee using the information on your Entry Form. The essay will be disqualified if the form is not attached and filled out legibly and completely.

MAILING INSTRUCTIONS

INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS: Judges prefer entries in a flat 9"x11" envelope, although other sizes will be accepted. Use the correct postage or your essay will be returned by the Post Office.

TEACHERS: If doing essays as a class project, you may mail class sets together in one flat envelope rather than individual envelopes. Please add a sheet that lists the following information:

School Name, Address, Telephone
Teacher's name (or other contact person)
Email address of teacher (if possible)
Number of essays in the packet

The dated and signed ENTRY FORM (SUBMISSION AGREEMENT AND RELEASE FORM) **must** still be attached to each student's essay. It does not need to be printed in color.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

All entries must be postmarked by **April 4, 2009** and mailed to:

Lincoln Bicentennial Essays
MOLLUS Michigan Commandery
P. O. Box 888281
Grand Rapids, MI 49588

NOTE:

All Essays become the property of the Lincoln Bicentennial Essay Committee. Please make a copy of your essay as essays will not be returned.

Supporting Michigan Curriculum Standards



The State of Michigan Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Committee

The mission of the Michigan Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Committee is to provide leadership and direction for Michigan's celebration of the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. It will do so by helping people appreciate how Lincoln's life relates to the lives of countless Michiganians today, serving as a clearinghouse for information about celebration activities, promoting partnerships that provide programming, and demonstrating how Michigan is forever linked to the life of Abraham Lincoln.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS -

Vision—The English language arts are the vehicles of communication by which we live, work, share, and build ideas and understandings of the present, reflect on the past, and imagine the future. Through the English language arts, we learn to appreciate, integrate, and apply what is learned for real purposes in our homes, schools, communities, and workplaces.

Standards 1, 2, & 3—Meaning and Communication

- 1 All students will read and comprehend general and technical material.
- 2 All students will demonstrate the ability to write clear and grammatically correct sentences, paragraphs, and compositions.
- 3 All students will focus on meaning and communication as they listen, speak, view, read, and write in personal, social, occupational, and civic contexts.

Standard 4 Language

All students will use the English language effectively.

Standard 5 Literature

All students will read and analyze a wide variety of classic and contemporary literature and other texts to seek information, ideas, enjoyment, and understanding of their individuality, our common heritage and common humanity, and the rich diversity of our society.

Standard 6 Voice

All students will learn to communicate information accurately and effectively and demonstrate their expressive abilities by creating oral, written, and visual texts...

Standard 7 Skills and Processes

All students will demonstrate, analyze, and reflect upon the skills and processes used to communicate through listening, speaking, viewing, reading, and writing.

Standard 8 Genre and Craft of Language

All students will explore and use the characteristics of different types of texts, aesthetic elements, and mechanics—including text structure, figurative and descriptive language, spelling, punctuation, and grammar—to construct and convey meaning.

Standard 9 Depth of Understanding

All students will demonstrate understanding of the complexity of enduring issues and recurring problems by making connections and generating themes within and across texts.

Standard 10. Ideas in Action

All students will apply knowledge, ideas, and issues drawn from texts to their lives ...

Standard 11. Inquiry and Research

All students will define and investigate important issues and problems using a variety of resources, including technology, to explore and create texts.

Standard 12. Critical Standards

All students will develop and apply personal, shared, and academic criteria for the employment, appreciation, and evaluation of their own and others' oral, written, and visual texts.

SOCIAL STUDIES -

Vision—Social studies is the integrated study of the social sciences to prepare young people to become responsible citizens.

Strand I. Historical Perspective

Students use knowledge of the past to construct meaningful understanding of our diverse cultural heritage and to inform their civic judgments.