

# PRESENTATIONS



This presentation focuses on concepts for presenting academic information graphically and orally. Academic presentations often struggle from predictable weaknesses that can be easily addressed. By focusing on design and content rather than tools themselves, presenters can dramatically improve the effectiveness of their presentations.

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For copies of the slides and  
links to resources, see:  
<https://goo.gl/c7nnqE>

# Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address (Bliss Copy)

## Background

The [Gettysburg Address](#) was delivered by President Abraham Lincoln on November 19, 1863. He was in Gettysburg to dedicate the [National Cemetery](#) where soldiers killed during the [Battle of Gettysburg](#) the previous July were to be reinterred.

Lincoln's speech was not the "headliner" of that event, and Lincoln was also ill with what would be later diagnosed with smallpox. Both of these likely contributed to the brevity of his speech. He followed [Edward Everett](#), who delivered a two-hour speech before Lincoln spoke about the significance of the war.

The exact text of the speech has been debated by historians, and the copy below was written by Lincoln long after he delivered the speech. Known as the Bliss Copy, it is the only copy that was signed by Lincoln himself.

## Text

Address delivered at the dedication of the cemetery at Gettysburg.

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 battle-field 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 can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not 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.

## License

The text of the speech was published before January 1, 1923, and is in the public domain worldwide because the author died at least 100 years ago.