

SPCH 100
Introduction to Public Speaking
President Lincoln versus PowerPoint:
A Comparison of Differences in Presentation

Complete the assignment below; type your response; discuss your work with the lab instructor.

Read the text of the Gettysburg Address below. Then visit www.norvig.com/Gettysburg/index.htm and go through Peter Norvig's PowerPoint presentation.

The Gettysburg Address—President Abraham Lincoln

- 1-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.
- 2-Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure.
- 3-We are met on a great battlefield of that war.
- 4-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.
- 5-It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.
- 6-But in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground.
- 7-The brave men, living and dead who struggled here have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract.
- 8-The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.
- 9-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.
- 10-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.

The introduction.

Describe the differences in tone implied by the PowerPoint slide and line 1 of the address.

How long is one "score?" How many years is "four score and seven years ago?" Why did the rhetor express the time frame in this manner?

What is the transition between the introduction and the body of this address?

The body.

Write a synopsis of ideas expressed in the address. Compare those ideas with those in the PowerPoint presentation. Does the graph in the PowerPoint presentation contribute much to the substance of the address?

How are these concept characterized: "the living" and "the dead." Write down these characterizations and the tasks that each must fulfill.

What is the transition between the body and the conclusion?

The conclusion.

Describe how the final sentence achieves a sense of closure. How does it do its work?

Rewrite the final sentence in a simpler form. Describe the difference in tone between the actual and revised final sentence. What is gained or lost in the revision?