

English II

Short Answer Connecting Selections Scoring Guide

March 2016

Read the two selections. Click on the tab to see the other selection. Then answer the questions that follow.

Copyright restrictions prevent "My Two Cents" from being displayed in this format. To access this selection, please refer to *Reader's Digest*, February 2009.

An engraving and a list of facts were included with this selection in the printed version of the English II test and are shown below.

Page 1 of Selection



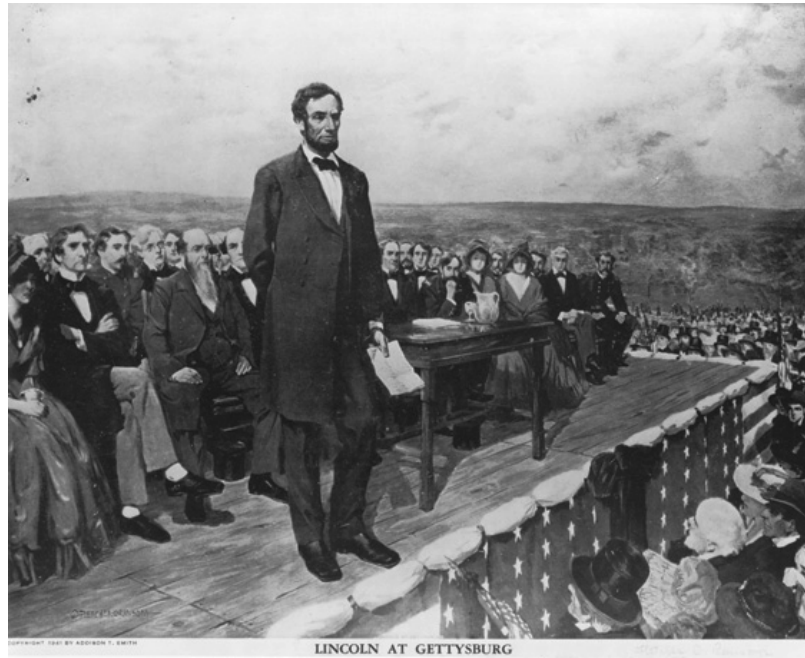
This 1865 engraving by Thomas Nast was created in response to the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln.

Page 2 of Selection

10 Things You Probably Didn't Know About Abraham Lincoln

1. Lincoln was the first president born beyond the boundaries of the original 13 states, in Kentucky in 1809.
2. Lincoln worked as a ferry operator and a flatboat pilot before entering the world of politics.
3. In 1849 Lincoln obtained Patent No. 6,469 on a device that was designed to keep boats afloat when they passed over a sandbar or entered shallow water. To this day he is the only president to hold a patent.
4. Lincoln was the first president to sport a beard. He began to grow his beard shortly after his election in 1860, when supporters and advisers suggested that facial hair would soften his somewhat harsh appearance.
5. The Lincoln family shared the White House with several unusual pets, including two goats named Nanny and Nanko. The Lincolns also had a dog named Fido, whom they left in Illinois after the presidential victory in 1860 because they were worried that the long train ride to Washington would be too difficult and frightening for him.
6. A turkey was sent to the White House for a holiday dinner in 1863, and Lincoln's son Tad pleaded that it not be executed. Lincoln issued "an order of reprieve," sparing the turkey's life.
7. Lincoln was the first president to lie in state at the U.S. Capitol Rotunda.
8. In 1876 a group of men tried to remove Lincoln's body from Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, Illinois, and hold it for a large ransom.
9. The Lincoln Bedroom was never a bedroom in Lincoln's time; it was an office where Lincoln met with cabinet members and signed the Emancipation Proclamation. The room still contains a few pieces of Lincoln's office furniture along with a handwritten copy of the Gettysburg Address.
10. Lincoln's mother Nancy Hanks was a distant relative of Tom Hanks, making the president and the actor fourth cousins four times removed.

Gettysburg Address



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- 1 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.
- 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. We are met here on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of it 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.
- 3 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 can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they have, thus far, so nobly carried on. 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 here gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation shall have a new birth of freedom—and that this government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

— Abraham Lincoln, November 19, 1863

English II Short Answer Connecting Selections

Based on “My Two Cents” and the Gettysburg Address, how would you characterize Abraham Lincoln? Support your answer with evidence from **both** selections.

Score Point 0 — Insufficient Response to the Question

Insufficient responses indicate a very limited reading performance.

These responses have one of the following problems.

- ❑ For one or both selections, the idea is not an answer to the question asked.
- ❑ The idea is incorrect because it is not based on one or both selections.
- ❑ For one or both selections, the idea is too general, vague, or unclear to determine whether it is reasonable.
- ❑ No idea is present from either selection. Sometimes the response contains only text evidence from one or both selections. At other times there appears to be an idea; however, this idea cannot be considered an answer to the question because it merely repeats verbatim, or “echoes,” the text evidence.

I would characterize him as a
fair honest man who cares about
everyone.

Score Point 0

This response is insufficient because the student presents an idea that is too vague to determine whether it is reasonable. Stating that Lincoln is a “fair honest man who cares about everyone” is not specific enough to constitute a valid answer to the question asked.

In the story "My two cents" and "the Gettysburg
Address" Abraham Lincoln is a
famous person. Lincoln was famous
because they put him on the penny,
"That year, Lincoln's likeness made its
debut on the penny." This paragraph
states that Lincoln's likeness made
its debut on the penny. You had to
be famous to be on the penny.

Score Point 0

The student presents the vague idea that Lincoln can be characterized as famous. Additional analysis and textual evidence from “My Two Cents” is provided. However, the student does not use the “Gettysburg Address” to either clarify or support the idea. Therefore, only one selection is adequately addressed, making this an insufficient response.

I would characterize Abraham Lincoln as principled, kind, compassionate, and resolute. Also, he was remembered as nonjudgmental, unmoralistic, and comfortable with ambiguity. He believed all men are created equal. He highly resolved that these dead shall not have died in vain. He believed that this nation shall have a new birth of freedom and that this government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Score Point 0

The student provides textual evidence from both selections but does not offer an idea. Merely restating the question (characterize Abraham Lincoln) does not constitute an idea. Because no idea is presented, this response is insufficient.

In "My Two Cents" they talk about who Abraham Lincoln was and what he did at what point. And in "Gettysburg Address" their talking what were the Big things he said to people. Like in "My Two Cents" ^{P.3} "Lincoln centennial, in 1909, that year, Lincoln's likeness made its debut on the penny, thanks to approval from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury. And in "Gettysburg Address" ^{P.1} "Conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

Score Point 0

This response is insufficient because the idea is not an answer to the question asked. The student attempts to summarize the selections, but the question requires students to present a characterization of Abraham Lincoln. While the student's description of both selections is true, the student does not characterize Abraham Lincoln. The textual evidence provided is irrelevant because the student did not answer the question asked.

Score Point 1 — Partially Sufficient Response to the Question

Partially sufficient responses indicate a basic reading performance.

These responses have one of the following characteristics.

- ❑ The idea is reasonable for both selections, but the response contains no text evidence (from one or both selections).
- ❑ The idea is reasonable for both selections, but the text evidence (from one or both selections) is flawed and does not adequately support the idea. Text evidence is considered inadequate when it is
 - only a general reference to the text,
 - too partial to support the idea,
 - weakly linked to the idea, or
 - used inappropriately because it wrongly manipulates the meaning of the text.
- ❑ For one or both selections, the idea needs more explanation or specificity even though it is supported with text evidence from both selections.
- ❑ For one or both selections, the idea represents only a literal reading of the text, with or without text evidence (from one or both selections).
- ❑ The response contains relevant textual evidence from both selections, but the student offers an idea that is reasonable for only one selection.
- ❑ The response contains an idea and relevant text evidence for both selections, but the idea for one selection contains an inaccuracy.

Based on "My Two Cents" and the Gettysburg Address, I would characterize Lincoln as a very inspiring man. The reason I characterize him like this is because in "My Two Cents" they built statues and monuments for him. It takes someone important to be respected so greatly. In the Gettysburg Address, he is encouraging the people to fight for their country with a lot of passion. And he inspired many to do so. So as you can see, Abraham Lincoln has inspired many people and he is greatly respected.

Score Point 1

The student presents the reasonable idea that Abraham Lincoln is characterized as an inspiring man. The student explains that in "My Two Cents" monuments are built for Lincoln, and in "Gettysburg Address" Lincoln passionately encourages others. Although additional analysis extends the idea, no text evidence is provided to support the idea. Responses that contain a reasonable idea but no textual evidence supporting that idea indicate a basic reading performance.

He was a good man, "Americans in 1909 had something more: an unembarrassed appreciation for heroes and acute sense of the way that even long-dead historical figures press in on the present and make us who we are. "

" 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 here on a great battle-field of that war we have come to dedicate a portion of it as a final resting place for those who have given there lives "

Score Point 1

The student offers the idea that Abraham Lincoln is characterized as a good man. Although the student presents relevant text evidence from both selections, the idea itself needs more explanation or specificity to be considered a sufficient response. For this reason, the student's reading performance can only be considered basic.

I would say Abraham Lincoln was a respected and determined man. In My Two Cents, he was respected that they had Lincoln statue in Raymond and a Lincoln memorial in Washington, D.C. In Gettysburg Address, he is determined when he says, "But in a larger sense we can not dedicate - we cannot consecrate - we can not hallow this ground."

Score Point 1

For "Gettysburg Address," the student offers the reasonable idea that Abraham Lincoln is characterized as determined and provides relevant text evidence to support the idea. For "My Two Cents," the student presents the reasonable idea that Lincoln is characterized as respected. However, the student only provides a general text reference to the Lincoln statues. A general text reference is not specific enough to be considered accurate and relevant textual evidence. Therefore, this response is partially sufficient.

Abraham Lincoln was a hero, he believed in himself and in others, he was honest and kind. Even to this day he is remembered by people. "Lincoln's presidency was still a living memory for many Americans." With this quote from "My Two Cents," we know that Lincoln has not been forgotten. In the Gettysburg Address, Lincoln mentions that everyone is equal, "...dedicated to the proposition that all men are equal." Lincoln is a hero we'll never forget.

Score Point 1

The student presents the reasonable analysis that Abraham Lincoln is characterized as heroic because of his belief in others/everyone's equality. Relevant text evidence from "Gettysburg Address" is provided to support the idea. Additionally, for "My Two Cents," the student further supports the idea of his heroic nature by stating that Lincoln is someone who is remembered to this day. However, the text evidence provided from "My Two Cents" is flawed because it wrongly manipulates the meaning of the text. The textual evidence the student provides refers to Americans in 1909 and not to Americans in the present. Because the text evidence for one of the selections is flawed, this response indicates a basic reading performance.

Score Point 2 — Sufficient Response to the Question

Sufficient responses indicate a satisfactory reading performance.

These responses have the following characteristics.

- ❑ For both selections, the idea is reasonable and goes beyond a literal reading of the text. It is explained specifically enough to show that the student can make appropriate connections across the selections and draw valid conclusions.
- ❑ For both selections, the text evidence that is used to support the idea is accurate and relevant.
- ❑ For both selections, the idea and text evidence used to support it are clearly linked.
- ❑ For both selections, the combination of the idea and the text evidence demonstrates a good understanding of the text.

Based on the two selections, I would characterize Abraham Lincoln as an inspirational man. In "My Two Cents" the author states that, "Here is the Lincoln who can be endlessly renewed and who, 200 years after his birth, retains the power to renew us." In the Gettysburg Address, Lincoln inspires people to continue fighting for their freedom, so that the "dead shall not have died in vain..."

Score Point 2

The student presents the reasonable idea that Abraham Lincoln is characterized as an inspirational man. Additional analysis further explains how Lincoln inspired others in "Gettysburg Address." The student also provides an accurate and relevant quotation from each selection to support the idea. The combination of idea and text evidence makes this a sufficient response.

"Earlier generations said they wanted their children to be like Lincoln: principled, kind, compassionate, resolute. People use to see him as a trustworthy man as well as dedicated and loving. "we have come to dedicate a portion of it as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live." Lincoln cares about his people and his country as shows affection for doing his speech on a battle ground.

Score Point 2

For "My Two Cents," the student presents the reasonable idea that Lincoln is characterized as trustworthy and dedicated. For "Gettysburg Address," the student presents the reasonable idea that Lincoln cares about his people and country. The student supports the idea with direct quotations from both selections. For both selections, the ideas and the text evidence used to support them are clearly linked and demonstrate that the student has a good understanding of the texts.

I believe Abraham Lincoln was an honest, good man, someone people would look up to. In "My two cents" it says, "Earlier generations said they wanted their children to be like Lincoln: principled, kind, compassionate, resolute." In the Gettysburg Address, it states, "... - that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion." Abraham was not a selfish person, he was honorable; a role-model for many.

Score Point 2

The student presents the idea that Abraham Lincoln is characterized as unselfish, honorable, and someone people look up to. The idea is specific and reasonable and demonstrates the student's ability to make appropriate connections across the selections. The student also provides a direct quotation from each selection to support the idea. Therefore, this response indicates a satisfactory reading performance.

Abraham Lincoln was respectful and respected. In "My Two Cents" to show remembrance for Lincoln, it states in paragraph 1 that "Congress will hold a special session in the Capitol's National Security Hall, a wreath will be laid at the great memorial in Washington, and a webcast will link grade-school classrooms." By doing all those things, the people show respect. In "Gettysburg Address" in paragraph 3, when talking about the men that died, Lincoln says "The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but can never forget what they did here." Abraham's speech shows respect.

Score Point 2

The student presents the reasonable idea that Abraham Lincoln is characterized as both respected and respectful. For "My Two Cents," the student provides a direct quotation that shows how people continue to respect Lincoln by placing a wreath on his Washington memorial. For "Gettysburg Address," the student provides a direct quotation that reflects the respect Lincoln shows for the people who fought at Gettysburg. For both selections, the combination of the idea and supporting textual evidence demonstrates a good understanding of the selections.

Score Point 3 — Exemplary Response to the Question

Exemplary responses indicate an accomplished reading performance.

These responses have the following characteristics.

- ❑ For both selections, the idea is perceptive and reflects an awareness of the complexities of the text. The student is able to develop a coherent explanation of the idea by making discerning connections across both selections.
- ❑ For both selections, the text evidence that is used to support the idea is specific and well chosen. Overall, the evidence strongly supports the validity of the idea.
- ❑ For both selections, the combination of the idea and the text evidence demonstrates a deep understanding of the text.

Abraham Lincoln was an inspirational person. He gave hope to his nation when they no longer believed in themselves, "these dead shall not have died in vain - this nation will have a birth of freedom!" His presidency has still touched many people two hundred years later "and the quiet that descends over the tourists who climb the wide, steeping stairway to the Lincoln Memorial." He was able to inspire his nation during the bitter Civil War and to this day many people still see him as a great leader.

Score Point 3

The student develops the perceptive idea that Abraham Lincoln is characterized as inspirational. The student strengthens this idea by explaining how Lincoln inspired hope when the country no longer believed in itself, and that his presidency still inspires people today. Well-chosen direct quotations from both selections strongly support the validity of the idea and its analysis. The combination of idea, analysis, and textual evidence demonstrates the student's deep understanding of the selections.

Despite the many negative portrayals of Lincoln in modern times, I believe him to be the honest man who shaped a nation and united its people as he swore he would in the Gettysburg Address, "... this nation shall have a new birth of freedom - and that this government of the people, by the people, shall not perish from the earth." It is still awe inspiring how one man from humble beginnings, can influence a nation, its people, history, even after death. "Here is the Lincoln who can be endlessly renewed and who, 200 years after his birth, retains the power to renew us."

Score Point 3

The student offers the perceptive idea that Abraham Lincoln is characterized as a person who shaped a nation both in the past and in the present. The student supports this idea with specific and well-chosen direct quotations from both selections that show Lincoln's promise to unite the people in "Gettysburg Address" and the influence he still has in "My Two Cents." The student's ability to make discerning connections across both selections demonstrates an accomplished reading performance.

Abraham Lincoln, based on these two passages, is patriotic and a loyal kind of person. He fights for his country to protect what our founding fathers created. One example showing this fact is when the author of "My Two Cents" states that "One speech reaffirms that the country was dedicated to a proposition." This example shows that in Lincoln's own hand-written words, he knew what this country was about and enforced it in his message. Another relevant example can be found in "Gettysburg Address" it goes into more detail about this proposition. It begins when he says, "and that this government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from this earth." This proves his loyalty to the people and ancestors of America, showing his dedication and patriotism.

Score Point 3

The student presents the perceptive idea that Abraham Lincoln is characterized as patriotic and loyal to his country. The student develops a coherent explanation of how Lincoln is patriotic (fights for his country to protect what our founding fathers accepted). Additionally, the student supports the validity of this idea with direct quotations from both selections that show how Lincoln proves his loyalty and patriotism through his speeches. The combination of idea, explanation, and well-chosen textual evidence demonstrates a deep understanding of the selections.

Abraham Lincoln is a man of many attributes. The article "My two cents" says "Earlier generations said they wanted their children to be like Lincoln: principled, kind, compassionate, resolute." The article shows us that he is a caring, good, generous man. And "The Gettysburg Address" uses parallelism such as "we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we can not hallow." He uses the word we throughout his speech. "Now we are... we are met... we have come." The parallelism and the constant "we" emphasize that he cares for the nation and is thinking about everyone, giving him the character of a thoughtful intelligent man.

Score Point 3

The student presents the perceptive idea that in "My Two Cents" Abraham Lincoln is characterized as caring, good, and generous. The student provides a direct quotation from the selection that illustrates how people perceived Lincoln. For "Gettysburg Address," the student develops the idea that Lincoln's use of parallelism and repetition of the word "we" shows that he was thinking of everyone, and was thoughtful and intelligent. Specific and well-chosen textual evidence supports the validity of that idea. The student demonstrates an awareness of the complexities of the selections, making this an exemplary response.