

## Core F | Rhetoric II | Q2 Memory Assignment

This year we will focus on the fourth and fifth canons of rhetoric: **memory** and **delivery**. To practice the canon of memory, each quarter will have a memory assignment as follows:

Q1: Biblical (Scripture)

**Q2: Historical (Gettysburg Address)**

Q3: Whimsical (Poetry)

Q4: Professional (your speech)

The piece we will be memorizing for this quarter is Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, which appears below. This is one of the most famous speeches of all time and a fine example of rhetorical style.

You will recite the speech with 1/2 of the class, randomly chosen, on 12/6. The rest of the class will be your group's audience. You will not recite in unison, but in *rotation*. One student will begin and continue until the next student is cued to continue. In other words, all follow along silently, ready to begin when signaled where the last speaker left off.

The goal is to know the piece so well that you can focus on the delivery of the previous speaker and continue in the same form seamlessly. Remember: not "kinda-sorta" memorized, but "backwards-forwards" memorized. If the speaker before you speaks slowly and with intonation, you should not continue speedily and tonelessly but in the same manner as the prior speaker.

You will be graded as a group, so the others in your group are counting on you to have committed this short but impactful piece to memory. This is a 10-point assignment, graded both on memory and delivery. Not only should you have your selection completely memorized, but you should also deliver with excellent verbal and nonverbal skills, seamlessly continuing from the speaker before. Presentations will occur on Tuesday, 12/6.

*Lincoln's Gettysburg Address*                      November 19, 1863

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 battlefield 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.