Abraham Lincoln: Address at Gettysburg

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.

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.

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 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.

Write down the examples of parallel structure, and try to note whether it is on the word, phrase, or clause level. There are a handful or so of examples of parallel structure.

Then, find on your own a famous historical speech. Read the speech and find examples of parallel structure. Write them down on a **separate** sheet of paper. Read the speech over a few times. Write out in a paragraph of maybe 7-8 sentences what you find the parallel structure adds to the speech. Add in what else you find effective about the speech in terms of other rhetorical devices (like parallel structure). Research to see what other rhetorical devices exist.