

A New Battlefield

On the one-year anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, New York Governor George Pataki will read Abraham Lincoln’s historic speech the “Gettysburg Address.” Lincoln delivered the address in 1863 at the site of a great Civil War battlefield. Read the address at www.loc.gov/exhibits/gadd/gatr1.html, then answer the questions below.

1. What does Lincoln mean when he states that ours is a nation “conceived in liberty”?

2. In speaking about the soldiers who gave their lives at Gettysburg, Lincoln said, “The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here; while it can never forget what they did here.” When Governor Pataki reads this on September 11, 2002, what new meaning will this statement have?

3. When Lincoln first delivered the “Gettysburg Address,” he stood on a battlefield. Do you view the World Trade Center site as a type of battlefield as well? Why or why not?

4. One of the most famous phrases from Lincoln’s speech is “government of the people by the people for the people.” What does this mean to you? Do you believe it accurately describes the government of our country today? Why or why not?
