**Gettysburg Address Analysis**

**High School English**

1. Read silently and **annotate** the Gettysburg address by looking for the rhetorical elements discussed in the Persuasion presentation:

* A clear position or claim
* Arguments/reasons that support the claim
* Anticipation of reader’s concern or objection
* Refutation of the reader concern (counterargument0
* A call to action
* Appeal to emotion (pathos)
* Appeal to logic (logos)
* Appeal to ethics (ethos)
* Appeal to authority

1. Discus the following questions:

* What does Lincoln mean by “four score and seven years “ago? Who are “our fathers’?
* What does **conceived** mean?
* What does **proposition** mean?
* What is he saying is significant about America? Is he saying that no one has been free or equal before?
* Summarize the three ways in which the nation is new.
* What important thing happened in 1776?
* What does Lincoln tell us in the first sentence about what happened 87 years ago?
* What is the impact of Lincoln referring to such a famous date?

1. Translate the text of the first paragraph into your own words.

Second paragraph:

* What impact does “now” have on its meaning?
* When Lincoln says the nation was “so conceived and so dedicated” what is he referring to?
* What if Lincoln had used the verb “start” instead of “conceive”?
* How does Lincoln’s argument that the war is about more than a place make his speech more compelling?

**Section II**

* Translate the third paragraph into your own words.
* What larger war is this battle a part of?
* What is the impact of starting the third paragraph with “but”?
* What does Lincoln describe as the impact of those who fought at Gettysburg?
* What does the word “rather” mean in this section?
* What four specific ideas does Lincoln ask his listeners to commit themselves to at the end of his speech?
* How does Lincoln use the idea of “unfinished work” to assign responsibility to his listeners?