Famous Quotes: Handout 1

Last Paragraph of Abraham Lincoln’s 1st Inaugural Address
March 4, 1861
“I am loath to close. We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battle-field, and patriot grave, to every living heart and hearth-stone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.”

Last Paragraph of Abraham Lincoln’s 2nd Inaugural Address
March 4, 1865
“With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan--to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations.”

Last Paragraph of Abraham Lincoln’s speech at Cooper Union in New York
February 27, 1860
“Neither let us be slandered from our duty by false accusations against us, nor frightened from it by menaces of destruction to the Government nor of dungeons to ourselves. Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith, let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it.”
Famous Quotes: Handout 2

Last Paragraph of Abraham Lincoln’s 1st Inaugural Address
March 4, 1861
“I am loath to close. We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battle-field, and patriot grave, to every living heart and hearth-stone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.”

Ending of Gettysburg Address
November 19, 1863
“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.”

Excerpt from letter to Henry Pierce and others
April 6, 1859
“This is a world of compensations; and he who would be no slave, must consent to have no slave. Those who deny freedom to others, deserve it not for themselves; and, under a just God, can not long retain it.”

The Ten Points
First Published in 1916
Although some people have claimed that Lincoln wrote the "Ten Points,” these words were actually written by Reverend William John Henry Boetcker (1873-1962):
You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift.
You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.
You cannot help small men by tearing down big men.
You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich.
You cannot lift the wage-earner by pulling down the wage-payer.
You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than your income.
You cannot further the brotherhood of man by inciting class hatred.
You cannot establish sound security on borrowed money.
You cannot build character and courage by taking away a man's initiative and independence.
You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.

Information about this quote: Reverend William John Henry Boetcker first published these 10 points in a brochure called "Lincoln on Private Property." One side of the brochure featured words by Lincoln and the other side had the 10 points by Boetcker. This brochure was reprinted several times and, eventually, Boetcker’s name was dropped from the brochure, making it look like Lincoln had written the points.