Famous speeches by Abraham Lincoln

Lincoln Douglas Debates 1858
“House Divided” Speech

"A house divided against itself cannot stand." I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved--I do not expect the house to fall--but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing, or all the other. Either the opponents of slavery will arrest the further spread of it, and place it where the public mind shall rest in the belief that it is in the course of ultimate extinction; or its advocates will push it forward, till it shall become alike lawful in all the States, old as well as new--North as well as South.

How is the “House Divided” speech related to the Declaration of Independence?

- All men are created equal
- People should have rights to life, liberty, & property
- The people create and get rid of governments
- We are “United” States

First Inaugural Address 1861

In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war. The government will not assail you. You can have no conflict without being yourselves the aggressors. You have no oath registered in Heaven to destroy the government, while I shall have the most solemn one to "preserve, protect, and defend it."
Four main ideas of the Declaration of Independence:

I. All men are created equal

II. People should have rights to life, liberty, & property

III. The people create and get rid of governments

IV. We are "United" States

How is the “First Inaugural Address” related to the Declaration of Independence?

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Emancipation Proclamation 1862

"That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free; and the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom.

And by virtue of the power, and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States, and parts of States, are, and henceforward shall be free; and that the Executive government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons.

How is the Emancipation Proclamation related to the Declaration of Independence?

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Gettysburg Address 1863

Wordle Prediction on what this speech was about:
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 battle-field 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.

How does the Gettysburg Address reflect the Declaration?

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Second Inaugural Address 1864

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.

How does the Second Inaugural Address reflect the Declaration?

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Now put the Wordles in chronological order and read them over again. Explain any patterns, trends and/or changes over time that you notice in Lincoln’s views from the years before the war (Lincoln Douglas Debates) to the 2nd Inaugural Address.

Finally, decide which document would be most important to your “influential person.” Write a letter, diary entry, or speech describing, from your characters’ point of view, how they would feel or react after hearing about Lincoln’s speech.