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Together as One

In our world many things happen, both good and bad. Through all the good that happens, something else always seems to creep up. It is within those troubling times that we need someone to give us hope, give us determination, and to give us the optimism that will help guide us through to the other side. President Abraham Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address" and Coach Boone's speech from *Remember the Titans* are two examples of speeches with similar theme, similar goals, but different approaches to how they deliver them, ultimately serving as hope and inspiration to move their audience forward through troubling times.

President Lincoln in his "Gettysburg Address" ultimately aims to guide his nation through what a country could only dreadfully fear, a civil war. Their own people, at war with themselves, fighting against their own people. Through his speech, he aims to give assurance to his people that things are going to be alright, and will get better. He further goes on to address the concerns as to what caused this distress, stating "*we cannot dedicate-we cannot consecrate-we cannot hallow-this ground,*" (Lincoln). Through this use of parallelism, repeating "*we cannot,*" he affirms that he has a part in this as well, just like everyone else. Throughout his speech, Lincoln establishes a compelling tone, making it clear that attention is needed towards this matter. He concludes the address with "*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,”
(Lincoln), asserting that when America comes together, any obstacle can be overcome.

Coach Boone delivers his speech to his football team after facing conflict with each other, driven by built-up tension. Union being needed between the teammates, his goal is to unite them together and to help them accept each other and work together as a team. Similar, to an extent, to what was being faced during the time in which Lincoln delivered his speech. Establishing this historical context, Boone begins with *“This is Gettysburg. Fifty-thousand men died right here on this field, fightin’ the same fight we’re still fightin’ amongst ourselves today,”* (Boone). Furthermore, his implementation of hyperboles in that statement helps in making the current situation very clear to his players. He further states *“This green field right here was painted red, bubblin’ with the blood of young boys,”* (Boone), using precise diction to create an awareness of the war; specifically though, his main point being to make them aware of what caused it in the first place. He ends off with, *“If we don’t come together, right now, on this hallowed ground, we too will be destroyed -- just like they were,”* (Boone), and *“I don’t care if you like each other or not. But you will respect each other,”* (Boone), placing great emphasis on the fact that if they want to continue being able to play, they must come together as a team and respect one another. Otherwise, this will be the downfall of their team.

When analyzing both Lincoln and Boone’s speeches, you can see they are more similar than not in the way they are designed to effectively guide their audiences through troubling times. Both of their speeches are built through a parallel structure, starting off with what happened in the past and building up to present time. Lincoln makes mention to how the nation’s fathers *“brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal,”* (Lincoln), while Boone makes

mention to the Battle of Gettysburg. As well, they both implement repetition through their words, such as when Boone continuously uses the phrase “*each other*” to emphasize his demand for cooperation. Allusions further help both of their audiences to connect their current experiences with troubling times in the past, such as how Lincoln refers to the Declaration of Independence and Boone refers to the battle that unfolded at Gettysburg. However, their speeches are different in the way that they deliver them. Lincoln makes his address more organized with balanced rhythm by using more formal words, and repeating the starting word “*that*” as he lists his four resolved in the end. However, Boone is more informal and casual in the way he addresses his team, using words such as “*pourin’*,” “*bubblin’*,” and “*don’t*.” But both of these approaches help them to connect with their audiences and deliver inspiration and optimism.

In the end, Lincoln and Boone are two people who want the best for their audiences. They recognize that in the current moment there is tension, and that change is needed in order to be able to move forward. Both have similar goals of uniting their people together during conflict, and have similar approaches to how they accomplish that. However, through the difference of the way they deliver their speeches, they are able to better connect with their specific audience. The important thing to always remember is that we need to work together. No one can go it alone. Even during tough times, we must work together to get through. When we come together as one, we can accomplish great things.

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