



UNIT 11.1B FORMATIVE WRITING ASSESSMENTS

The Gettysburg Address

By Abraham Lincoln

Writing Prompt:

How does Lincoln use diction that is appropriate to the audience, occasion, and purpose of the text? Use evidence from the text to support your thesis.

The Emancipation Proclamation

By Abraham Lincoln

Writing Prompt:

Compare and contrast the form, audience, diction, and tone of The Gettysburg Address and The Emancipation Proclamation. Use logic and text evidence to support your answer.

Letter from a Birmingham Jail

By Martin Luther King, Jr.

Writing Prompt:

King's writings and speeches are filled with allusions that reveal his rhetorical mastery and breadth of knowledge. In what ways do his allusions help him achieve the purposes listed below? Cite specific Allusions as text evidence to support your ideas.

- Appealing to his reader's sense of right and wrong
- Establishing his credibility
- Making his ideas accessible to a wider audience.

My Dungeon Shook

By James Baldwin

Writing Prompt:

In *Soul on Ice*, black activist Eldridge Cleaver criticized James Baldwin for his "grueling, agonizing, total hatred of the blacks, particularly of himself" and his "shameful, fanatical, fawning, sycophantic love of the whites." Write an argument in which you agree or disagree with Baldwin's statements. Be sure to cite evidence from Baldwin's text.



Stride Toward Freedom
By Martin Luther King, Jr.
and
Necessary to Protect Ourselves
By Malcom X

Writing Prompt:

Focus closely on the ideas and arguments present by Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X in these two texts. What are their positions on violence? How do they argue for or against its use? Cite evidence from the text to support your answer.

From "Stride Toward Freedom"
By Martin Luther King
And
Necessary to Protect Ourselves
By Malcom X

Writing Prompt

Many commentators criticized Martin Luther King, Jr. for using radical and provocative tactics. In what ways might perceptions of King's philosophy have changed after Malcolm X gained prominence?

He Showed Us the Way
By Cesar Chavez

Writing Prompt:

Cesar Chavez, a leader in the movement for fair treatment of migrant farm workers, advocated nonviolence to achieve his goals. Write an essay in which you analyze his claim, counterclaims, evidence, and use of rhetorical devices. Be sure to support your ideas with evidence from the text.