

Name: _____

Date: _____

Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address by Abraham Lincoln

Guided Notes – Lesson 5

What is Lincoln's central idea in his second inaugural address?

Objective: In this lesson you will learn how to determine an author's central idea by analyzing the author's claims.

Steps:

1. Look at the author's claims.
2. Ask yourself, "What central idea do these claims support?"
3. Write down the author's central idea.

Selected Text from Paragraph 3:

1. Look at the author's claims.

The Almighty has His own purposes. "Woe unto the world because of offenses...If we shall suppose that American slavery is one of those offenses...

...He gives to both North and South this terrible war as the woe due to those by whom the offense came...

Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondsman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said "the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether."

2. Ask yourself, "What central idea do these claims support?"

(Highlight or underline the phrases or sentences that show a central idea that the claims support.)

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3. Write down the author's central idea.

(Jot down a central idea based on the claims you've analyzed.)

He gives to both North and South this terrible war...

The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous...

American slavery is one of those offenses...

Central idea:

Your Turn!

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Paragraph 4:

1. Look at the author's claims.

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.

2. Ask yourself, "What central idea do these claims support?"
(*Highlight or underline the phrases or sentences that show a central idea that the claims support.*)

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3. Write down the author's central idea.
(*Write down a central idea based on the claims you've analyzed.*)