



Healing Through The Arts®

Where those who are healing find strength,
hope and inspiration through the arts.

Social Studies, Lesson 2 – *History's Healing Words*

Lesson goal – To develop analytical skills in regards to language

Target students – History students grade 8 and higher

Learning Objective – Students will watch, listen, and/or read a selection from *American Rhetoric* and analyze the speech for theme, content, and tone

Outcome – Students will produce an essay, oral, or multi-media presentation identifying the parts of a speech that were the most powerful and moving

Standards – The following educational standards are addressed in this lesson:

- PA History 8.1.9 A – D
- PA History 8.1.12 A – D
- PA History 8.2.9 A, B
- PA History 8.2.12 A, B
- PA History 8.3.9 A, B
- PA History 8.3.12 A, B
- CC RH 1, 4, 5, 10
- WHST 1, 4, 8, 9

Materials / Resources – The following resources will be required for this lesson:

- Internet access

Description of Lesson (one to two 90 – minute blocks or two to four 45 – minute classes)

1. Break students up into groups of two to four, or work independently.
2. Choose one of the speeches from the *American Rhetoric* website.
 - Students should read the transcript while they listen to the speech.
3. Students should then identify the most moving passages in the speech. They should then imagine themselves hearing the speech at the time it was given and record the following:

- Impressions and reflections on content of speech
 - Impressions and reflections on speaker (accent, tone, pacing, etc.)
4. Students can then take some of the important passages and try speaking them out loud, avoiding copying or emulation of the original style to explore which part or parts held the greatest impact (words, the speaker, time, place, etc.)
 5. Students should then create a presentation in essay, oral, or multi-media format researching and assessing the greater impact of the speech.

Resources:

- American Rhetoric – Top 100 Speeches. Website. <http://www.americanrhetoric.com/top100speechesall.html>