

War and American Society

21H.223

First Writing Assignment

For this assignment, you should write a short response paper of **1 to 2 pages**. The paper is due in class after **Class #3**. Extensions will be granted only for good reasons explained well in advance. Computer malfunctions are never an acceptable excuse for a late submission. Proper academic citation is required, but you may use whichever standard style you prefer. I will make comments and put a check, check plus, or check minus to give you a sense of how you've done, but that mark does not count toward your final grade—unless you don't do it at all or turn it in late.

The assignment is relatively open-ended. Consider the original documents by Abraham Lincoln that you are reading for class today. In conjunction with the historical account of the Civil War era in Mark E. Neely, Jr., *The Last Best Hope of Earth: Abraham Lincoln and the Promise of America*, write a response paper on a topic of your choosing.

You may focus on any aspect of the war and its intersection with Lincoln's texts that you wish: political, military, social, even literary. You may wish to examine a particular theme or issue – civil liberties, wartime presidential leadership, the question of slavery – and use the documents to make a claim. Or you may wish to juxtapose two documents that share something in common. Whatever you do, be clear in your view on the theme you choose, state it clearly in the opening paragraph, and use direct quotations from the original works to demonstrate your points.