

Abraham Lincoln: Second Inaugural Address

Abraham Lincoln

Why does Lincoln pair 'high hope' with a refusal to predict victory?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Hope without prediction
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Second Inaugural Address - first paragraph
START	The progress of our arms, upon which all else chiefly depends
END	With high hope for the future, no prediction in regard to it is ventured.
PASSAGE ID	sec-lin2-01

THE MOVE

Distinguish hope from certainty in public argument

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Lincoln acknowledges military progress while refusing to convert it into a confident prediction of victory. The restraint separates hope, which is emotionally and morally possible, from certainty, which the situation does not justify.

MARK

Underline the evidence Lincoln gives for optimism. Circle the phrases that limit prediction or certainty. Write HOPE beside one and KNOWLEDGE beside the other.

NOTICE

- What facts make optimism reasonable at this point in the war?
- What does Lincoln refuse to claim despite those facts?

- How does restraint strengthen his credibility in a public speech?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why does Lincoln pair 'high hope' with a refusal to predict victory? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why does Lincoln pair 'high hope' with a refusal to predict victory? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	Lincoln separates hope from knowledge. Military progress justifies confidence, but refusing to predict victory keeps public optimism from pretending the future is certain.
EVIDENCE	Use the encouraging facts, the phrase 'high hope,' and the immediate limitation on prediction.
WATCH FOR	Do not say Lincoln is pessimistic. His restraint strengthens hope by distinguishing it from certainty.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

Abraham Lincoln: Second Inaugural Address

Abraham Lincoln

Why does Lincoln pair 'high hope' with a refusal to predict victory?

START ANCHOR	The progress of our arms, upon which all else chiefly depends
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END ANCHOR

With high hope for the future, no prediction in regard to it is ventured.

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK - Underline the evidence Lincoln gives for optimism. Circle the phrases that limit prediction or certainty. Write HOPE beside one and KNOWLEDGE beside the other.
2. NOTICE - What facts make optimism reasonable at this point in the war? What does Lincoln refuse to claim despite those facts?

How does restraint strengthen his credibility in a public speech?

3. THINK - Answer provisionally: Why does Lincoln pair 'high hope' with a refusal to predict victory?
4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.