**Lincoln’s First Inaugural Address**

1. Which states had already seceded at the time of this speech?
2. Lincoln gets right to what he considers the most critical issue of the time. What is that issue? (Hint: It isn’t slavery itself.)
3. What evidence does Lincoln offer the South, to support his claim that they should not fear him?
4. In his speech, Lincoln claims that “the Union of these States is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” He later adds that, “in view of the Constitution and the laws the Union is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,” and that it is therefore his duty to enforce the laws in all the states.
5. What does Lincoln say about the coming of bloodshed and violence?
6. What point does he make about majorities, minorities, and secession?
7. Why does Lincoln bring up the Supreme Court in paragraph 26? What is his point? To which case do you think he might be referring?
8. What does Lincoln claim is the only substantial dispute in the country?
9. Lincoln mentions that a Constitutional amendment has recently passed the Congress. What could it do? And what is his response?
10. Before closing, Lincoln implores his countrymen to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and suggests that if \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is on their side, their side will ultimately prevail through legal means.
11. What is Lincoln’s point about whether or not there will be a civil war?
12. The of this speech is very famous: “The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” What does it mean?

Reflection

1. What last minute offers / promises does Lincoln make to the South to try and calm / appease them? List and explain each one.
2. Summarize Lincoln’s conception of “union”.
3. What promises does Lincoln make to the North? List and explain each one.
4. Summarize Lincoln’s conception of “succession”.
5. Overall, what is Lincoln trying to accomplish with this speech? (This requires a few sentences.)