

Name _____



Past Meets Present

Directions: Read both excerpts carefully. One comes from a historical speech, the other from a modern article. Answer the reflection questions in full sentences, citing **text evidence** where appropriate. Think about how historical perspectives connect to modern issues.

Excerpt A: Historical (Adapted from Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, 1863)

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure."

Excerpt B: Modern (Adapted from a 21st-century editorial on equality)

"In today's society, the promise of equality continues to be tested. While laws protect civil rights, challenges remain in education, employment, and justice. True freedom means more than words in a document; it requires action to ensure fairness for every community."

1. What is similar about how both texts describe **equality**?

2. How do the **challenges** described in Lincoln's time differ from today's world?

3. How does the **purpose** of Lincoln's speech compare with the modern editorial?

4. Why is it important to study both historical and modern perspectives on the same theme?
