

Name _____

Power In Few Words Answer Key

Responses will vary. Strong answers may include:

Feature	Gettysburg Address	Longer 19th-Century Speech
Length	Very short (about 2 minutes)	Often over an hour
Language Style	Clear, direct, powerful	Complex, formal, old-fashioned phrasing
Main Message	Easy: honor sacrifice, protect freedom	Harder to locate among many details
Audience Impact	Memorable and emotional	Important but less memorable

Short-Answer Guidance:

- Lincoln wanted everyone to understand the message quickly
- Short speeches keep focus on the most important ideas
- Listeners can repeat and remember key lines like "of the people, by the people, for the people"

Teacher's Guide

- Share a famous long dedication speech (e.g., Edward Everett's) for comparison
- Highlight how Lincoln's structure builds emotion quickly
- Have students read each version aloud to hear the difference in pacing and clarity

Engagement Ideas

- Timer activity: students try to read a portion of longer speech-notice timing
- Vote: Which speech would you remember more if you were in the audience? Why?

Extensions

- Create a "Short but Strong" speech anthology of student speeches
- Compare Lincoln's brevity to modern messaging (ads, social media, campaign speeches)