

“Lincoln and Douglass: Struggle between Freedom and Slavery” || Feross Aboukhadijeh,  
11th grade

[...] Lincoln used the imagery of a slave being lashed with a whip to touch his audience's emotions and make them empathize with the slaves' dire situation. Finally, he made numerous allusions to the Bible and God in order to stir up religious excitement and fervor. Through the skilled use of diction, tone, and appeal to emotion in his Second Inaugural Address, Lincoln gained enough support from the American citizens to win the Civil War and successfully reunite the Union.

Like Lincoln, Douglass had a very clear, singular purpose in making his speech: to gain civil liberties for blacks. Douglass believed in the equality of all men, regardless of skin color. As a former slave who had experienced the terrors of slavery firsthand, Douglass gained credibility and even sympathy from his audience during his speech “What to the slave is the Fourth of July?”. Because of his personal experiences, Douglass was able to use condescending diction and pessimism in his speech to describe how he and his fellow black Americans felt [...]

[<https://www.apstudynotes.org/english/sample-essays/compare-and-contrast-lincoln-douglass/>]