

**Definition:** Parallelism in writing refers to the repeated usage of words and grammatical structures in a well-designed pattern. Parallel structures assist the comprehension of the reader and provide a memorable rhythm to the writing.

**Writing Hints**

Repeat key words throughout an essay to help the reader maintain focus. Use the same grammatical structures for phrases within lists. Repeated **Transitions** can produce interesting parallelism.

**Directions:** Identify the words and phrases that are part of parallel structures in Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address in the spaces provided. Hints are provided in **bold** for each structure to get you started.

Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth upon 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. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate. . . we cannot consecrate. . . we cannot hallow this ground.

a new **nation** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

conceived **in liberty** \_\_\_\_\_

**we are engaged** \_\_\_\_\_

**so conceived** \_\_\_\_\_

**we cannot dedicate** \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_

## Parallelism (continued)

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The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us. . . that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion. . . that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain. . . that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom. . . and that government of the people. . . by the people. . . for the people. . . shall not perish from the earth.

who struggled **here** \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_

**that** these dead \_\_\_\_\_

**shall** not have died in vain \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

of **the people** \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix C Answers

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### Numbering the Essay

- #1 3-4-5-4-5  
 #2 4-5-4-5-3  
 #3 3-4-5-4-5-4-5  
 #4 3-4-5-4-5-4  
 #5 4-5-3-4-5  
 #6 4-5-4-5  
 #7 1-1-2-3-4-5-4-5-3-4-5-4-3-4-5-4-5-TR-6-6-6

### Identifying Types of Evidence

- #1 1. 8 2. 6 3. 1 4. 4 5. 2 6. 3 7. 5 8. 7  
 9. 7 10. 5 11. 8 12. 3 13. 1 14. 2 15. 4 16. 6  
 #2 1. 7 2. 8 3. 2 4. 4 5. 1 6. 6 7. 3 8. 5  
 9. 6 10. 7 11. 1 12. 3 13. 8 14. 5 15. 2 16. 4  
 #3 1. 6 2. 4 3. 1 4. 2 5. 5 6. 2 7. 8 8. 3

### Identifying Introduction Strategies

(Answers may vary, but are listed in best order.)

- #1 1. 7 2. 3 3. 1 4. 8 5. 3 6. 7 or 8 7. TS  
 #2 1. 3, 7, or 8 2. 5 or 8 3. 3 or 4 4. TS  
 #3 1. 2 2. 3 or 7 3. 7 4. 4 5. 6, 7, or 8 6. 1 or 7 7. TS

### Identifying Conclusion Strategies

(Answers may vary, but are listed in best order.)

- #1 1, 8, 3 8 5  
 #2 6, 5, 1 5, 4 5, 6, 7, 8 3, 5, 4, 8  
 #3 7 5 4, 5 2, 1, 3, 6 8, 7

### Parallelism

a new <b>nation</b>	that nation, any nation, that nation
conceived in liberty	dedicated to the proposition
<b>we are</b> engaged	We are met
<b>so</b> conceived	so dedicated
<b>we cannot</b> dedicate	we cannot consecrate, we cannot hollow
who struggled <b>here</b>	what we say here, what they did here, to be dedicated here, they who fought here
<b>that</b> these dead	that this nation
<b>shall</b> not have died in vain	shall have a new birth of freedom, shall not perish from the earth
of <b>the people</b>	by the people, for the people