

Learning From Lincoln - CLARITY

August 2011

*How did a man with less than 2 years of formal education become one of our finest writers? A lovely, small book traces Lincoln's development as writer to become a master of clear, concise communications. For those fed up with contemporary "word overload" and looking for a model of clear writing, we highly recommend the book, **Abraham Lincoln - The Writer - A Treasury of His Greatest Speeches and Letters**, compiled and edited by Harold Holzer (Honesdale, PA, Calkins Creek Books, 2000).*



"Practicing law would teach him more about writing than he ever learned in books. Legal writing required simplicity, truthfulness, and good arguments. His second law partner, an older man named Stephen T. Logan, showed him how to make his legal presentations short, clear, convincing, and to the point."

Holzer, page 12

"But Lincoln not only changed American history; he changed American writing as well. Before Lincoln, our leaders spoke in formal, complex sentences cluttered with long words and obscure references to ancient times. Lincoln simplified political writing. He eliminated unnecessary words. He replaced emotion with logic. He made complicated issues clear. He wrote in words everyone could understand simple words that carried immense power and emotion."

Holzer, page 18

"I wish to be so clear that no honest man can misunderstand me and no dishonest one misrepresent me."

Abraham Lincoln, October 16, 1854

Want to learn more about Lincoln?

October 26-28, 2011 - 3-day seminar in Gettysburg, PA
"LEADERSHIP FOR TIMES OF CHANGE: LESSONS FROM LINCOLN"
For program details: www.HistoricLeadershipTraining

-OR-

Bring your group to Gettysburg for a customized seminar (or let us bring the seminar to your location). Contact us at www.HistoricLeadershipTraining.com.

Sincerely,

Antigoni and Everett Ladd