

**APUSH
INSTRUCTOR: W. JOHN MCCORMICK
CIVIL WAR PROJECT**

Please prepare an essay of 5 - 8 pages answering the question listed below. The inclusion of a concise thesis statement, organization, clarity and completeness will be considered in grading the content of your paper. Spelling, punctuation and grammar will be considered in grading the structure of your paper. One point out of one hundred will be deducted for every structural error committed. The two grades will be averaged to determine the final grade for the paper. Double-spaced typing is required. Use no larger than twelve-point font style. Late papers will not be accepted.

A. REQUIRED QUESTION:

Using Mark E. Neely, Jr.'s The Last Best Hope of Earth - Abraham Lincoln and the Promise of America as your source, take a position on the following question:

1. Historians have argued for decades about the reasons for Abraham Lincoln's greatness as President. The arguments revolve around the question of the true genius of Lincoln's leadership during the Civil War. Some historians point to Lincoln's great political skill. Others point to his deeply held convictions on the great moral questions of the time. Keeping this tension in mind as the theme of your paper, answer this question:

In his role as Chief Executive, was Abraham Lincoln more of a political pragmatist or more an ideological moralist? (I.e. were his decisions as President guided more by political considerations or by rigid moral convictions?)

When preparing your response and/or proving your argument, be sure to examine a minimum of three (3) of the following topics:

- a. Lincoln's early frontier experiences
- b. Lincoln's activities in the Whig and Republican parties
- c. The Elections of 1860/1864
- d. The Secession Crisis/Fort Sumter
- e. Civil Liberties
- f. The Border States
- g. Emancipation
- h. Military matters
- i. Political Developments during the Civil War
- j. Reconstruction Plans

Please note that you may utilize/examine other topics not listed here upon consultation with the instructor.

Use short quotes and paraphrases to prove your argument. You may use other sources but do not include large block quotes from the author/sources being examined. There is no need for footnotes or bibliography. Page numbers should be cited. This should be done in parenthesis in the text, e.g. (Neely, p. 22); (Grolier's Academic American Encyclopedia, p. 76). Please also provide a cover page including title, course number and title, instructor name and your name and date.