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## Speaking a Different Language

John M. Rudy  
*Gettysburg College*

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# Speaking a Different Language

## Abstract

[*Video available below*] OK, so what are we looking at? First and foremost, we are looking at someone who has thought deeply about the meaning of Lincoln's words at Gettysburg. "President Lincoln changed history / he honored the dead but did so much more / he changed the meaning of the Civil War." MC Lala gets the deep meanings of the two minutes Lincoln spent on a platform in Gettysburg. MC Lala grasps the deep importance of Lincoln's re-dedication of America at Gettysburg using the Declaration of Independence's ever inspiring promise that, "all men are created equal." [*excerpt*]

## Keywords

CW150, Gettysburg, Gettysburg College, Civil War Era Studies, Civil War Interpretation, Interp Theory, Abraham Lincoln, Gettysburg Address

## Disciplines

Cultural History | History | Public History | Social History | United States History

## Comments

*Interpreting the Civil War: Connecting the Civil War to the American Public* is written by alum and adjunct professor, John Rudy. Each post is his own opinions, musings, discussions, and questions about the Civil War era, public history, historical interpretation, and the future of history. In his own words, it is "a blog talking about how we talk about a war where over 600,000 died, 4 million were freed and a nation forever changed. Meditating on interpretation, both theory and practice, at no charge to you."

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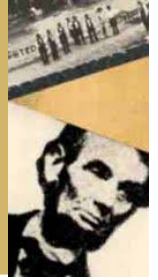
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# Interpreting the Civil War

Connecting the Civil War to the American Public

[www.civilwarconnect.com](http://www.civilwarconnect.com)



## Speaking a Different Language

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2011**

Hot off the YouTubes... Just found this on the perennial font of good, bad and weird. In this case, I'm thinking it's along the lines of excellent:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vxJBv5wKmr4&feature=player\\_embedded](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vxJBv5wKmr4&feature=player_embedded)

OK, so what are we looking at? First and foremost, we are looking at someone who has thought deeply about the meaning of Lincoln's words at Gettysburg. "President Lincoln changed history / he honored the dead but did so much more / he changed the meaning of the Civil War." MC Lala gets the deep meanings of the two minutes Lincoln spent on a platform in Gettysburg. MC Lala grasps the deep importance of Lincoln's re-dedication of America at Gettysburg using the Declaration of Independence's ever inspiring promise that, "all men are created equal."

And here's where this gets interesting: the good MC is sharing that meaning quite adeptly. It's not hard with the Gettysburg Address itself. Lincoln at Gettysburg was being an interpreter himself, attaching new meanings of freedom for all to the tangible resource that was the blood soaked ground under the audience's feet.

But MC Lala encapsulates the meaning of the speech in a consumable form which sticks in the modern mind. Almost every bit of Lincoln's intended meaning is there.

I've watched some of [MC Lala's other work \(under the username "dilalpe"\)](#) and have been enamored with it. I don't think the songs and videos simply speak to youth or a hip-hop generation. I think they can speak to any of us. Historical meanings which resonate universally: isn't that what we want and need as a society from the Civil War?