The Gettysburg Revisions

How to begin...

"How long ago is it -- eighty odd years -- since on the Fourth of July for the first time in the history of the world a nation by its representatives, assembled and declared as a self-evident truth that "all men are created equal."

(Response to Serenade, July 7, 1863)

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

(Gettysburg Address, Nov. 19, 1863)

How to make changes...

It is rather for us, the living, we here be dedicated to the great task remaining before us —that, from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here, gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve these dead shall not have died in vain; that the nation, shall have a new birth of freedom...

(Nicolay Draft)

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...

(Bliss Copy)

How to end...

"It is, Sir, the people's Constitution, the people's government, made for the people, made by the people, and answerable to the people."

(Daniel Webster, 1830)

"Democracy is Direct Selfgovernment, over all the people, for all the people, by all the people."

(Theodore Parker, 1858)

"... and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

(Abraham Lincoln, 1863)

For more details, see House Divided Project, "Lincoln's Gettysburg Addresses," Google Arts & Culture, http://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/exhibit/lincoln-s-gettysburg-addresses/wReow-98