Common Myths about the Gettysburg Address

Myth: President Lincoln wrote the speech on the back of an envelope.

Myth: President Lincoln wrote the speech on the train from D.C. to Gettysburg.

Myth: The cemetery was complete when the dedication took place.

Myth: President Lincoln thought his speech was a failure.

Myth: The audience at Gettysburg was disappointed by the short speech.

Group Assignment
1. Explain the myth that your group has been assigned, answering these three questions:
   - What is a truth in this myth?
   - What are other truths behind this myth that might contradict it?
   - What does the myth reveal about those who believe it?

2. As a group, you may use any of the materials available to help you understand and explain the myth.

3. Prepare a five-minute presentation to the class that explains your understanding of the myth, using creative drama, visual aids such as posters, music, illustrations, or an oral presentation.