

## Libraries and Liberty: The Writerly Voice

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From the founding of the United States through the Civil War, creative and expository writers used their pens to persuade people to buy into their version of liberty. In this second course in the Libraries and Liberty Series, we'll look closely at the rhetoric of writers from the Revolution through Emancipation--from the moral and intellectual weight of writing in the early republic (Phillis Wheatley and The Federalist Papers) to the persuasive power of writing during the Civil War (Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, and Walt Whitman).

Nearly all of the readings can be found online, so I pasted websites below. For the most part, readings are short.

### Session 1, September 29

#### Logos

- **Watch:** Kermit Roosevelt on Federalist 46 on The Rosenbach's YouTube Channel
- **Read:** Federalist 46 ([https://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th\\_century/fed46.asp](https://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/fed46.asp))

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dldnuYfC9rs&t=881s>

### Session 2, October 20

#### Pathos

- **Read:** Federalist 54 [https://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th\\_century/fed54.asp](https://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/fed54.asp)
- **Read:** To the Right Honorable William Earl of Dartmouth, by Phillis Wheatley

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/47706/to-the-right-honorable-william-earl-of-dartmouth>

- **Read:** His Excellency, General Washington, by Phillis Wheatley

<https://poets.org/poem/his-excellency-general-washington>

### Session 3, November 10

#### Ethos

- **Read:** Abraham Lincoln's "Lyceum" speech (1838)

<https://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/lyceum.htm>

- **Read:** Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address (1865)  
<https://www.nps.gov/linc/learn/historyculture/lincoln-second-inaugural.htm#:~:text=%22With%20malice%20toward%20none%20with,and%20cherish%20a%20just%20and>
- **Read:** Frederick Douglass' essay from *Douglass' Monthly* (1862)  
<https://rbscp.lib.rochester.edu/4387>

#### Session 4 (In person), December 15 Rhetorical Fireworks

- **Read:** *Common Sense*, by Thomas Paine (1776)  
<https://oll.libertyfund.org/page/1776-paine-common-sense-pamphlet>
- **Read:** *When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd*, by Walt Whitman (1865)  
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/45480/when-lilacs-last-in-the-dooryard-bloomd>
- **Read for Extra Credit** (i.e. just for fun): *Christmas Tree*, a short story by William Faulkner (1930s)  
(typescript will be provided)

#### Short Bibliography to read on your own if you wish:

*His Greatest Speeches, How Lincoln Moved the Nation*, by Diana Schaub  
*Team of Rivals*, by Doris Kearns Goodwin  
*Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom*, by David W. Blight  
*Walt Whitman: A Life*, by Justin Kaplan  
*Poems on Various Subjects, Religious & Moral*, by Phillis Wheatley  
*The Trials of Phillis Wheatley*, by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.  
*Phillis Wheatley: Biography of a Genius in Bondage*, by Vincent Carretta