

## Abraham Lincoln's Pockets - A Writing Activity

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This is a neat writing or speaking project that can be used in American Literature or American History or other classrooms that need a creative project.

Step 1: Go to the AMERICAN HERITAGE website (<http://www.americanheritage.com>) and in the Search section type in "contents of Lincoln's pockets" and you will get the article "The contents of Abraham Lincoln's pockets on the night he was assassinated."

Step 2 : Make copies of this article for each student in the class. Assign them to read the article and speculate why they think Lincoln had these objects in his pockets. Discuss their historical significance as well. Why would Lincoln have had these objects in his pockets?

Step 3: After discussing this article, ask the students to choose a famous person (these people can come from a specific time period or they can be contemporary figures.)

Step 4: Assume the person has died and imagine what items may have been in his/her pockets at the time of death. These items should reflect the events or situations that pertain to that person's life and history.

Step 5: Write a 750 word essay or prepare a 7 minute speech that describes each item and tell how each item relates to the famous person's life and times.

Step 6: You may need to do some research on line or in the library to find information relating to your person's life. Be creative and learn some new information about your person.

Step 7: Use MLA format for a Works Cited page and MLA format for in-text citations used for this assignment