

**The Last Word Is Not the Least Word**

	that	all	men	are	created	equal
<b>Parts of Speech:</b>	pron.	adj.	n.	v.	v.	adj.
<b>Parts of Sentence:</b>	subject			predicate		
<b>Phrases:</b>	-----no prepositional, appositive, or verbal phrase-----					
<b>Clauses:</b>	This passage is a dependent clause, used as an adjective.					

The passive voice verb shows humanity receiving the action of the main Actor, God.

Immediately, Lincoln circles his address around the Virginian Thomas Jefferson’s self-evident truth that all men are created equal—the proposition to which the new nation was dedicated. This proposition had certainly not been self-evident in previous human history; it was the revolutionary political philosophy of the United States. Lincoln uses it here as a dependent adjective clause that modifies his noun *proposition*. The action verb *are created* is in passive voice. In order to express the verb in active voice, we would insert the name of the Actor, God: *dedicated to the proposition that God created all men equal*. Although *equal* snuggles up to the verb, it actually modifies the subject *men*; *men are equal* is the idea, not that God created men equally. During the time of Jefferson, and even during the time of Lincoln, women were not even permitted to vote. Jefferson’s words reflect the United States’s unfinished task, that continues even today, to understand what Martin Luther King called the full meaning of our creed.