

## Seminar Preparation

Thursday, October 13

### **B. Digging up the bones of history: history as discovery**

*Reading:* BG, cc. 2, 4. Wilbur Samuel Howell, "The Declaration of Independence: Some Adventures with America's Political Masterpiece." *Quarterly Journal of Speech* 62 (1976): 221-33.

*Discussion:* We are concerned with the gathering of historical fact. The process involves two sensations: a "hypothesis-proof" cycle and a "solving the mystery" puzzle. The text provides some advice, Howell provides a glimpse of the ecstasy of discovery.

### **C. Constructing Accounts: history as narrative experience**

*Reading:* [Marie Hochmuth Nichols, "Lincoln's First Inaugural: Part I." \*Methods of Rhetorical Criticism: A Twentieth Century Perspective\*. Ed. Bernard L. Brock and Robert L. Scott. New York: Harper and Row, 1972. 32-54.](#)

*Discussion:* We are concerned with telling a story as a skill. This is, in fact, an essential skill of qualitative research. Even in modern ethnography understanding the forces that merge in a moment and providing an account of how they create the moment are essential skills.