

President Gerald R. Ford's handwritten reflections, 1977 or 1978

Scanned from the collection **Gerald R. Ford: Materials from the writing of *A Time To Heal*** at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library

While writing his autobiography, *A Time to Heal* (New York: Harper & Row, 1979), President Gerald R. Ford composed a series of personal reflections on twenty-seven topics. What makes these documents so unusual is not only their introspection but also their form. President Ford recorded these observations by hand, writing in blue ball point on his favored yellow writing tablets. He did not expend time and energy to polish and edit his writing, apparently planning to do so when incorporating them into the book. Therefore occasional spelling or grammatical errors or incomplete thoughts appear.

For each reflection the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library has scanned President Ford's handwritten document and added a Library-produced transcription below to aid in reading the reflection.

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Brightness of the English language

It is easy to say that English is beautiful because one speaks & reads it by heritage especially if no other language is known. That is an answer.

English is brilliant because it gives 215 million Americans and millions more throughout the world to communicate on a day to day basis. English is also brilliant because it permits orators like Daniel Webster or Everett Ruess to dramatize great issues. English also gives the ^{great} authors of history the tools to write in their own "way" about people, problems, science, humour or what have you.

English is flexible - usable by all persons for all purposes and is a fundamental key to building better relationships between people, nations & a finer life.

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