

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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Playing Poker To Win

To a degree I agree with those who believe winning is everything. That target is the incentive to improve one's mind and body, to do a job so that the results are meaningful and so that when the challenge is over you have a feeling of accomplishment.

Playing to win does mean you must organize & train whether it be in an athletic contest or a political fray. This means you are building not only for the present but for the future. Winning gives you that extra satisfaction but there is also the reward that in preparing & competing, day after day, you are building something that in the end will pay dividends.

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