

## Landrieu Speech: Summary and Top 12 Lines

In light of the ongoing debate sparked by the removal of a statue of Robert E. Lee in Charlottesville, the violence that ensued over the weekend and [President Trump's tweetstorm](#) arguing against removing these statues, this article summarizes the remarkable speech that New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu gave by way of explaining his decision to remove statues honoring the confederacy. **As you watch, listen, and read, annotate for values that he holds**

- **Personally**
- **As mayor**
- **In ordering this act**

Based on the reading purpose, students will use marking the text to identify information as they read. They will begin by **numbering** the paragraphs they have been asked to read. Then, as they identify information that is relevant to the reading task, they will **underline** or **circle** this information, making it easier to locate for notes or discussion.

### Summary:

*The historic record is clear: the Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis, and P.G.T. Beauregard statues were not erected just to honor these men, but as part of the movement which became known as The Cult of the Lost Cause. This 'cult' had one goal — through monuments and through other means — to rewrite history to hide the truth, which is that the Confederacy was on the wrong side of humanity.*

*First erected over 166 years after the founding of our city and 19 years after the end of the Civil War, the monuments that we took down were meant to rebrand the history of our city and the ideals of a defeated Confederacy.*

*It is self-evident that these men did not fight for the United States of America, They fought against it. They may have been warriors, but in this cause they were not patriots.*

*These statues are not just stone and metal. They are not just innocent remembrances of a benign history. These monuments purposefully celebrate a fictional, sanitized Confederacy; ignoring the death, ignoring the enslavement, and the terror that it actually stood for.*

*After the Civil War, these statues were a part of that terrorism as much as a burning cross on someone's lawn; they were erected purposefully to send a strong message to all who walked in their shadows about who was still in charge in this city.*

I went through the speech and picked out the 12 lines that stood out most to me. They're below (in the order Landrieu said them).

### Annotate Values



## Top 12 Lines:

## Annotate Values

1. "There is a difference between remembrance of history and reverence of it."
2. "These statues are not just stone and metal. They are not just innocent remembrances of a benign history. These monuments purposefully celebrate a fictional, sanitized Confederacy; ignoring the death, ignoring the enslavement, and the terror that it actually stood for."
3. "They were erected purposefully to send a strong message to all who walked in their shadows about who was still in charge in this city. "
4. "So I am not judging anybody, I am not judging people. We all take our own journey on race."
5. "I knew that taking down the monuments was going to be tough, but you elected me to do the right thing, not the easy thing, and this is what that looks like."
6. "This is, however, about showing the whole world that we as a city and as a people are able to acknowledge, understand, reconcile and most importantly, choose a better future for ourselves making straight what has been crooked and making right what was wrong."
7. "It is an affront to our present, and it is a bad prescription for our future. History cannot be changed. It cannot be moved like a statue. What is done is done."
8. "Centuries-old wounds are still raw because they never healed right in the first place. Here is the essential truth. We are better together than we are apart."
9. "If we take these statues down and don't change to become a more open and inclusive society this would have all been in vain."
10. "We have not erased history; we are becoming part of the city's history by righting the wrong image these monuments represent and crafting a better, more complete future for all our children and for future generations."
11. "Instead of revering a four-year brief historical aberration that was called the Confederacy we can celebrate all 300 years of our rich, diverse history as a place named New Orleans and set the tone for the next 300 years."
12. "The Confederacy was on the wrong side of history and humanity. It sought to tear apart our nation and subjugate our fellow Americans to slavery. This is the history we should never forget and one that we should never again put on a pedestal to be revered."