

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.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald R. Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Definition of a successful marriage.

A successful marriage cannot thrive on simply a mutuality of interests important as that ingredient is over the years for compatibility. There must be understanding, compassion and emotion which fit under the umbrella of love.

A marriage that has these attributes can weather the storm clouds that are inevitable in an intimate relationship. They can ^{strongly} bond a man & wife who are challenged by temporary disagreements, financial problems, individual illnesses, children disappointments and career opportunities and failures. There must be a belief ^{on the part of both} that there is nothing of a higher priority than the sanctity & continuation of the relationship.

Definition of a Successful Marriage

A successful marriage cannot thrive on simply a mutuality of interests important as that ingredient is over the years for compatibility. There must be understanding, compassion and emotion which fit under the umbrella of love.

A marriage that has these attributes can weather the storm clouds that are inevitable in an intimate relationship. They can strongly bind a man & wife who are challenged by temporary disagreements, financial problems, individual illnesses, children disappointments and career opportunities and failures. There must be a belief on the part of both that there is nothing of a higher priority than the sanctity & continuation of the relationship.