

SESSION 2.2: GUIDE: TEACHING POSTER

As you view the Poster of Lincoln and learn about his presidency think about his civic impact. Read about his presidency and notice his solemn stance in the sculpture by Daniel Chester French. (You might even try standing in that pose and read a portion of the speech or address. If you try this, notice how you feel.) The words of the Gettysburg Address are behind Lincoln outside our capitol. Lincoln is known for this speech. This was a solemn occasion because so many people died at Gettysburg during the Civil War when our country was torn apart.

President Lincoln delivered the 272-word Gettysburg Address on November 19, 1863 on the battlefield near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

“Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, on this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting-place for those who here gave their lives, that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work, which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these

honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

Discuss the call to civic participation in Lincoln’s speech. Civic participation is being involved in community, state, country. Examples of civic participation include joining the military, being brave, and being helpful, obeying laws, helping make laws, working hard to make an impact on others, honoring others, protecting others. What does Lincoln want the people listening to his speech to do?

Read more about Lincoln on the back of the poster. Note Lincoln appears, or is referred to, a number of times in and around our capitol. Why do you think the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation is a fitting act to honor Lincoln’s civic impact? You can also find Lincoln in the stone relief on the east façade in Kansas-Nebraska Act. Discuss Lincoln’s impact on the American people. What qualities do you see that show Lincoln to be a model of civic participation?

Now read about Harry H. Bradley and consider what personal qualities and actions show him to be a model of civic participation.

Do Lincoln and Bradley have any qualities that are similar?
Do you have qualities that similar to these civic leaders?