



LEADER OR POLITICIAN?

(30-40 minutes)

OBJECTIVE

Students construct ideal qualities for political leadership to evaluate the qualities of past leaders and current candidates.

MATERIALS

Brainstorming List handout

GET READY

- ✓ Duplicate a copy of the handout for each student.
- ✓ Divide students into groups of three or four.

INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Ask your students to use their *Brainstorming List* handouts to individually brainstorm adjectives that come to mind when thinking of the word “politician.” Then ask your students to do the same for the word “leader.”
- ✓ When the individual lists are completed, ask the groups to fill out the Venn diagram on the handout together, using all the students’ adjectives as well as adding any others the students can come up with as a group. Say, *The place where the two circles overlap should show qualities that an outstanding political leader needs. Examples might be “voter popularity” or “eloquent speaking*

ability” as well as “creativity” or “integrity.”

- ✓ When the Venn diagrams are completed, ask the groups to choose a political leader of the past who embodies the overlap in their diagram. Ask the groups to explain how that leader possessed all of the overlapping qualities of their diagram.
- ✓ Invite the groups to share their diagrams with the class.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *Were the adjectives for “politician” similar to those of the “leader”? Why or why not?*
- ★ *How can we encourage more of the “best and brightest” Americans to go into politics?*
- ★ *Out of all the qualities a politician and leader must have, which are the most important?*
- ★ *Which of our past leaders would you elect today if he/she were still alive? Why?*

VOTE QUOTE

“When I was a boy I was told that anybody could become President. I’m beginning to believe it.” – Clarence Darrow



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BRAINSTORMING LIST

1. Write down the words that come to mind when you think of the word “politician.”

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2. Write down the words that come to mind when you think of the word “leader.”

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

POLITICIAN

LEADER

