## Abraham Lincoln Center for Character Development lesson plans

1. Lesson Plan Information			
Lesson Title/ Character Quality:		Duration of Lesson:	
Rules of Civility	character quality: respect/civility		
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	30 minutes	
Illinois State Standards Addressed:		Target Grade Level:	
• 2A.3a. Predict others' feelings and perspectives in a variety of situations.			
• 3A.3a. Evaluate how honesty, respect, fairness, and compassion enable one		Middle school or	
to take the needs of others int	to account when making decisions.	secondary	
		•	

2. Expectations/Lesson Objectives/Purpose/Concepts to Be Covered:

- Students will learn the importance of showing respect and civility to others.
- Students will appreciate the historical lessons of exercising civility and how civility is a necessary character tool to succeed in life.

## 3. Materials, Equipment, or Resources Needed:

• Copy off the rules and the article below, or write out the rules before class begins.

4. Summary of Actions/ Instructional Strategies:

 Ask students what civility is, (showing politeness and respect to others even when you disagree), and why it is important. Have them give examples they have seen of incivility. Read, copy off, or display in the classroom, these seven simple rules of civility.

- A. Be tolerant & respectful of people who are different from you. Realize you are different to them too.
- B. Use respectful and non-vulgar language when you disagree with someone. Think about the impact of words and actions on others before you use them.
- C. Control your impulses and don't let anger and emotion get in the way of responding to others, even if they are angry. Sometimes even silence or no response is best.
- D. You may challenge another's views or thinking, but don't ever attack or demean the person.
- E. Rather than throwing out insults and trying to win the argument, adopt a positive and solution-driven approach in resolving conflicts. Try to find out what you have in common.
- F. Always resort to strength in character, including empathy, understanding, and honesty. Try to take the moral high ground in times of disagreement.
- G. Apologize when you are wrong, and admit to the reality that you don't know everything and that you might be wrong.
- Present students with the reading "How to Bring Back Civility in Politics: Use the Example of Abraham Lincoln, available at: <u>https://www.smerconish.com/uncategorized/how-to-bring-back-civility-in-politics-embrace-lincoln/</u>. Have them list examples of the civility showed by both Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas.

## 5. Assessment / Check for understanding/ Evaluation of Student Learning:

• Have students reflect upon the civility of how Lincoln and Douglas showed civility towards each other even though they were rivals. Then they write what they can use as a personal lesson.