

Abraham Lincoln Center for Character Development lesson plans

1. Lesson Plan Information	
Lesson Title/ Character Quality: Stories from Lincoln's Life character quality: civility/respect	Duration of Lesson: 1 hour
Illinois State Standards Addressed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2A.3a. Predict others' feelings and perspectives in a variety of situations. • SS.H.5.9-12. Analyze the factors and historical context that influenced the perspectives of people during different historical eras. 	Target Grade Level: middle school or high school
2. Expectations/Lesson Objectives/Purpose/Concepts to Be Covered:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will learn the importance of showing respect and civility to others. • Students will appreciate the historical lessons of exercising civility as a necessary character tool. 	
3. Materials, Equipment, or Resources Needed:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before class copy off or find the stories found at the ALCCD website, link provided below. 	
4. Summary of Actions/ Instructional Strategies:	
<p>1. Show on the screen or copy off the quotes below. Divide the class into small groups and have them analyze the quotes. In each, ask "How did Lincoln show civility and respect in each case?"</p> <p><i>"Understanding the spirit of our institutions to aim at the elevation of men, I am opposed to whatever tends to degrade them."</i> – Lincoln's to Theodore Canisius, May 17, 1859</p> <p><i>"Careful, give no offence, & keep cool in all circumstances."</i> – Lincoln to Mark Delahay, May 12, 1860</p> <p><i>"I am a patient man---always willing to forgive on the Christian terms of repentance; and also to give ample time for repentance."</i> –Abraham Lincoln to Reverdy Johnson, July 26, 1862</p> <p><i>"May I ask those who have not differed with me, to join with me, in this same spirit towards those who have?"</i> – Lincoln in a speech after his re-election, Nov. 10, 1864.</p> <p>2. Divide the class into small groups. Pass out copies of Lincoln's civility found at: https://alccd.lincolncollege.edu/abraham-lincoln-character-qualities/honesty/#civility.</p> <p>A. Each group selects a story or two and turns the story into a role-playing skit where they act out the scene in front of the class.</p> <p>B. Or, assign each group a story to act out, assign them the characters they are to play, and then narrate the story as they act out the scenes in front of the class.</p> <p>3. As a class, theorize why civility is an important trait and how it led to Lincoln's success.</p>	
5. Assessment / Check for understanding/ Evaluation of Student Learning:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A test to follow can ask questions such as "Give specific examples of Lincoln's civility." 	
6. Possible Extension Activity:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write what character qualities you'd like to be remembered for and how you'll achieve that. 	

