



## **Activity # 1 – Perseverance in the face of defeat**

- Target grade level: elementary/secondary/college
  - Character quality emphasized: perseverance
1. Watch one of the many inspirational videos online of how successful people failed at first but eventually prevailed.
  2. Present students the Lincoln failures list (be sure not to use many of them available online as some of the listed failures have been embellished through the years).
  3. Have students journal personal stories of their own failures, tragedy, or something which has happened to them personally and how they had to persevere in the face of those battles.

## **Activity #2 – Analyzing Lincoln’s Virtues:**

- Target grade level: elementary/secondary/college
  - Character quality emphasized: honesty, empathy, humility, perseverance, courage, vision, responsibility, leadership
1. Ask students to do the following: “Select a virtue which, if lived out to a greater degree or more consistently, would make for a company/community/country/world?” Have them argue in a short speech defending their choice.
  2. Then, ask students this question: “Select a virtue which, if lived out to a greater degree or more consistently, would YOU a better leader?”
  3. Then ask students: “Choose one of Lincoln’s virtues you identify with or you aspire to, and write a response on how you can/will choose to be better in your everyday life?”
  4. Post those on the wall so students can see them every day.