

**Subject:** TAG

**Grade:** K,1,2

Note: TAG instruction occurs one day a week for each student. These plans are meant to replace the time that would be spent on core learning activities (reading, ELA/writing, math social studies/science) for that one day each week. Students should still complete activities for specials classes (art, music, PE) on their TAG day.

**Week 7**

Standards (include both TAG standards and grade level standards addressed)	SS2CG2 Identify the following elected officials of the executive branch and where they work: a. President (leader of our nation) and Washington, D.C. – White House  SS2CG3 Give examples of how the historical figures in SS2H1 demonstrate positive citizenship traits such as: honesty, dependability, trustworthiness, honor, civility, good sportsmanship, patience, and compassion.  <b>TAG Higher Order and Critical Thinking</b> Gifted students will use logic, reasoning, and criteria to conduct comparisons and make and evaluate decisions.
Brief Description	During this lesson, students will learn about the qualities of a president and decide which is the most important quality for a leader to have.

**Activity 1:**

**Brainstorm a list of at least 10 positive character traits that you display.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

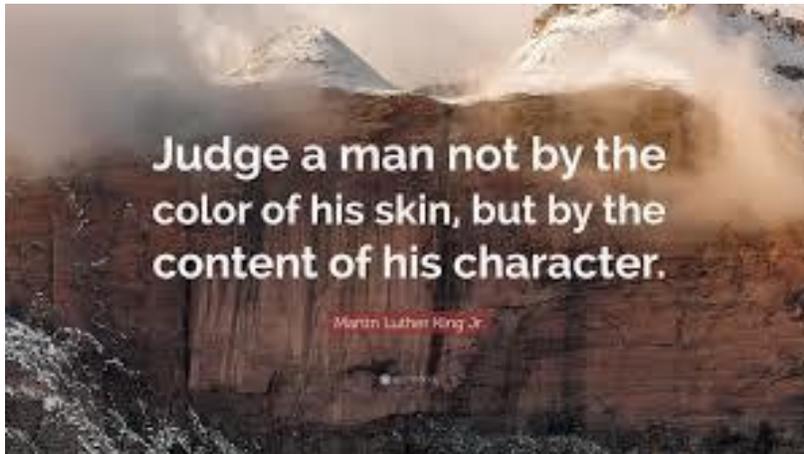
8. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_



**Activity 2: Read the following article adapted from Newsela.**

<https://newsela.com/read/elem-govt-presidential-character/id/28778/>

## **The U.S. Government: What makes a good president?**

The president is the leader of the United States government. It is a very big job. The United States has had 44 presidents. Each president is different. They have their own way of doing things. They also have different kinds of character.

Character is the mix of qualities in a person. Qualities are words that describe someone's personality. Kindness is one example. Bravery is another. You might say someone who is kind and brave has "good character." Character makes up your personality. It makes you act a certain way. That is why character is important in presidents. It can change how they lead.

James Barber was a political scientist. That is someone who studies governments. Barber was curious about presidents. He was interested in their characters. So he looked at their personalities. Maybe some personalities are better for the job, Mr. Barber thought.

### **Two Kinds Of Presidents**

Mr. Barber decided there are two kinds of presidents. Some are positive. These presidents think things will turn out well. They like being president. They use their power to help people.

Other presidents are negative. They do not think things will turn out well. These presidents get angry easily. They do not seem to like being president. Negative people like power. But they do not know what to do with it.

What kind of president do you think would be better: positive or negative? Mr. Barber thought positive presidents were better. He looked at past presidents who fit the positive description. He wrote that they were the best presidents. Like Mr. Barber, Americans like to think about presidents. They even like to rate them.

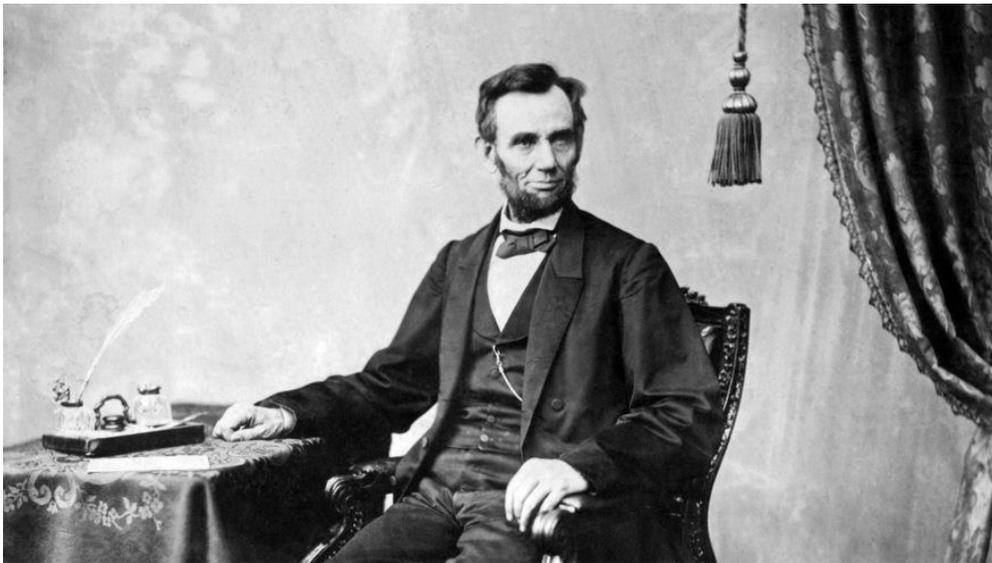


President Franklin D. Roosevelt during his first fireside chat.

From 1933 to 1940, Roosevelt did 30 radio broadcasts called the "fireside chats." These shows helped the president talk directly to the American people. This was a new idea that had never been done before. The president was a good speaker and helped calm the public in times of crisis. For this reason, people tended to like President Roosevelt. Photo from: National Archives and Records Administration.

## Rating Presidents From Best To Worst

Historians do this, too! These are people who study history. They often make lists of presidents. They put the best ones at the top. The worst ones end up at the bottom.



A portrait of President Abraham Lincoln from 1863. Lincoln is usually rated as one of the best U.S. presidents. Maybe this is because most people think Lincoln had "good character." Photo from: Wikimedia Commons.

Some presidents are very popular. Abraham Lincoln is one example. He is almost always at the top of the list.

Others are less popular. James Buchanan is one example. He is usually at the bottom.

Top-rated presidents have some things in common. People would say they have "good character." They have a strong plan for the country. They speak well. These presidents can work with lawmakers. They are honest.

Some Americans want the president to have good character. They think character is very important. Others do not care so much.

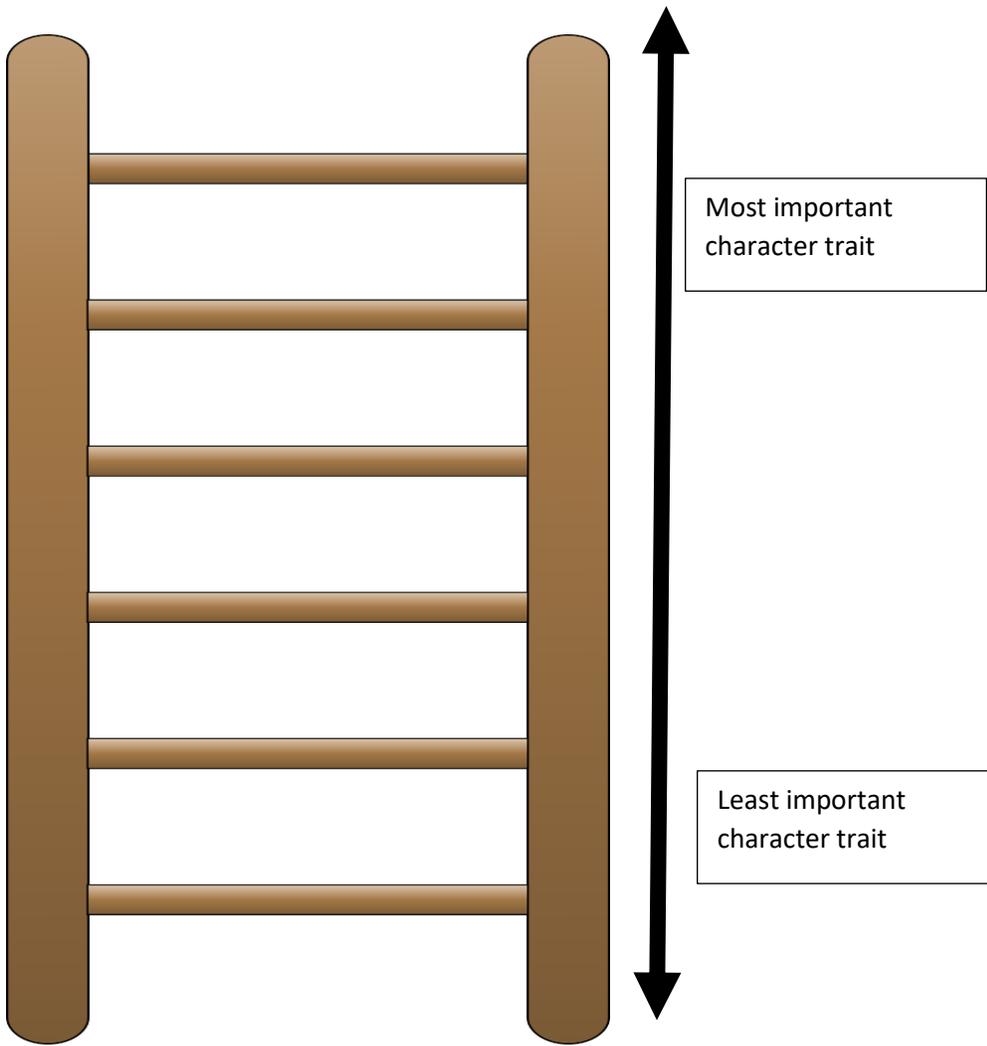
Character might be important to some because of what the president represents. Presidents are like symbols. They stand for the country they lead.

### Activity 3: Evaluate the character traits that presidents should have.

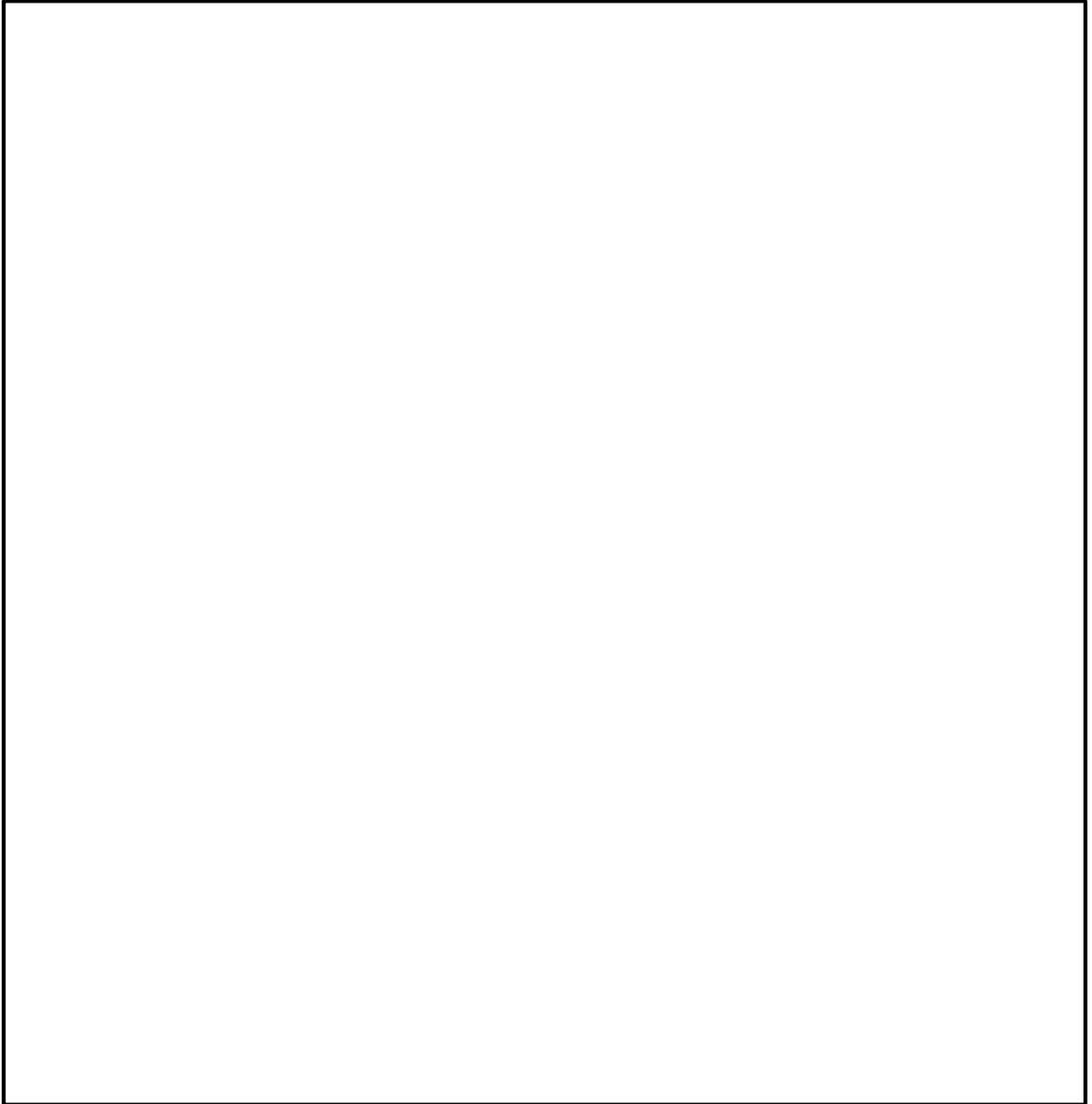
These are five traits that a good president should demonstrate:

1. Honesty
2. Patience
3. Dependability
4. Hard-working
5. Compassion

Use the ladder below to prioritize the five traits from most important to least important. Write one character trait in each of the ladder spaces.



Draw a picture to represent the trait that you placed at the top of the ladder.



**Activity 4- Summary:** Create a newspaper headline about what you learned from today's lesson. For example, *Presidents Need More Than Smarts*

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