

## Hook Exercise: What Makes a Good Leader?

**Directions:** What qualities make a good leader? Over the years a number of polls have been conducted among historians to determine the greatest President in American history. A 2011 aggregate (average) of 18 of these polls produced these results: Abraham Lincoln (#1), Franklin Roosevelt (#2), George Washington (#3), and Thomas Jefferson (#4).

Below are seven qualities, with examples, which could be used to measure the leadership of President Lincoln. You have two tasks.

**Task One:** With a partner, check whether you think a particular quality is Very Important, Somewhat Important, or Not So Important. You may only choose two as very important.

| Quality          | Example   | Very Important | Somewhat Important | Not So Important |
|------------------|---|----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Political skill  | Appointed his political rivals to serve in his cabinet      |                |                    |                  |
| Toughness        | Commander-in-Chief during bloodiest war in American history |                |                    |                  |
| Moral leadership | Abolished slavery   |                |                    |                  |
| Honesty          | Returned a penny when a kid                                 |                |                    |                  |
| Eloquence        | Wrote and gave Gettysburg Address                           |                |                    |                  |
| Compassion       | Pardoned many deserters sentenced to firing squad           |                |                    |                  |
| Humor            | Could tell a funny story even after a hard day              |                |                    |                  |

**Task Two:** Using these same seven qualities, how would you measure our current President?