

Honoree: First Lieutenant Leroy Bowman and CSM Gail M. Williams

Grade Level: 6-8

Subject: ELA

Standard addressed: (Common Core Standards)

6-8 RI 1.1

6-8 W 1.1, 2.4, and 3.8

Goal/Objective: The students will identify leadership traits through one leader's life; research and analyze one honoree's leadership traits using background knowledge as well as Internet sources; compile and organize information from a variety of sources; and express their opinions about one leader's leadership traits in discussion.

Items/Materials needed:

Leadership Qualities Graphic organizer (attached)

Steps/Strategy:

1. As a class, create a list of American leaders from the last century. Encourage students to consider leaders from a wide range of fields, including government, business, entertainment, philanthropy, and sports.
2. As a class, brainstorm aspects of leadership. Ask, "Based on what we already know about each leader in the list, what are some traits that leaders possess?"
3. Compile a list of leadership traits that students can use for reference during the rest of the lesson. Instruct students to record the list of traits in the Brainstorm section of their graphic organizer. Some traits might include honesty, vision, competence, ability to inspire, intelligence, persistence, charisma, passion, emotional intelligence, curiosity, and creativity.
4. Have each student choose which honoree he or she wants to learn more about. Then, divide students into groups according to the leader they chose.

Instruct students to use Internet resources to learn more about their leader's life. As they work, students will identify four leadership traits and examples to include on the Leadership Qualities graphic organizer.

As they research, students should consider:

- a. What elements of leadership are inherent to your leader? How do you know?
- b. What elements of leadership did your leader learn during his/her life? What events show this learning?
- c. What examples from your leader's life demonstrate each trait?
- d. How did each leadership trait affect the leader's ability to have an impact?
- e. What leadership traits do you share with your leader?

Allow students at least 30 minutes to research and complete the graphic organizer. In addition to the graphic organizer, students should prepare a list of sources used.

5. Ask one member of each group to share what they learned.
6. As a class, discuss:
 - a. What traits are shared by all of the leaders?
 - b. What experiences did all the leaders share?
 - c. Do leaders have to demonstrate all the leadership traits to be effective? Why or why not?
7. Have students write a response to one of the following assessment questions:
 - a. Which character trait do you think was most helpful for your leader and why?
 - b. Which of the leadership traits do you possess? How might you use these leadership traits in your future career?
8. Have students write an essay about someone that they consider a leader in their life. The essay should consider the questions: What qualities does your leader have? What experiences have shaped his or her life? What about him or her makes you want to follow or emulate him or her?

Leadership Qualities

Directions: Put the honoree's name in the center. Identify four leadership traits and examples.

