Complex Characters: Searching for the Perfect President

Kathleen Pate, Education Specialist
Clinton Presidential Library
President Andrew Shepherd

For the last couple of months, Senator Rumson has suggested that being president of this country was, to a certain extent, about character . . . and although I have not been willing to engage in his attacks on me, I've been here three years and three days, and I can tell you without hesitation: Being President of this country is entirely about character.
Greatest Generation vs. Baby Boomer

Left: George H.W. Bush
Right: Bill Clinton
Dave (1993)
The Perfect President?

Currently accepting applications for the position of President of the United States of America. Selection to be made November 2024.

Minimum Qualifications:

★ Must be a natural born citizen
★ Must be 35 years old or older
Independence Day (1996)
The Perfect President?

Preferred Qualifications

★ Experience in federal, state or local government, for example: United States Senator or Representative, Governor

★ Education – high school diploma, college degree, graduate degree or law degree

Skills

★ Leadership

★ Public speaking

★ Diplomacy

★ Ability to multitask

★ ?

★ ?

★ ?
Air Force One (1997)
# What Makes a Good Leader?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ideas</th>
<th>Implementation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>good ideas, effective</td>
<td>good ideas, ineffective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>implementation</td>
<td>implementation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bad ideas, effective</td>
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</tbody>
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Online Educational Programs

- Pre-K - 2nd grade: clintonlibrary.gov/education/teachers/pre-k-second-grades
- 3rd - 5th grade: www.clintonlibrary.gov/education/teachers/third-fifth-grades
- 6th - 8th grade: www.clintonlibrary.gov/education/teachers/sixth-eighth-grades
- 9th - 12th grade: www.clintonlibrary.gov/education/teachers/ninth-twelfth-grades

- We Rule: Civics for All of US: www.clintonlibrary.gov/education/we-rule-civics-all-us
- The Powers of the Presidency: www.clintonlibrary.gov/education/powers-presidency
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★ Digital Library Exhibits - clinton.presidentiallibraries.us/exhibits

★ Presidential Travel Schedule - clinton.presidentiallibraries.us/travel-schedule

★ Meetings and Calls with Foreign Leaders -
  clinton.presidentiallibraries.us/foreign-leaders-meetings-calls

★ Memcons and Telcons -
  clinton.presidentiallibraries.us/memcons-telcons
The Clinton Digital Library

- 2 million pages of archival documents
- 400 audio recordings, photographs and streaming videos
- 8 Digital Library Exhibits, 7 Topical Research Guides
- Clinton Library YouTube
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Learn more...
Digital Library Exhibits

- Digital Library Exhibits are a deep dive into a single topic
- Presented through primary source materials
- Excellent place to start a research project
- Can be used by teachers to help students learn about interpreting primary sources

Left: Introduction page for *A Space for Diplomacy: The Clinton Administration’s Relationship with NASA* DLE
Education Activity Suggestions

DAYS LIKE THIS

Education Activity Suggestions:

Students should review the "Days Like This": President Clinton’s Public Diplomacy in Northern Ireland exhibit before completing any of the following assignments. Students may work in groups or individually.

Option One:

Each Saint Patrick’s Day, the Prime Minister of Ireland presents a crystal bowl of shamrocks to the President of the United States to honor the close connection between the two nations. For this activity, students will research the design of past crystal bowls before designing a bowl of their own in the medium of their choice. Students should choose design elements that are symbolic of the relationship between Ireland and the United States. Students should present their designs to the class or a gallery could be displayed online, at an open house, or in the school's hallways.

*Extension Activity/Informed Action Component:

The annual Shamrock Ceremony at the White House is not a two way gift exchange; rather, it is only the Irish Prime Minister who makes a gift to the United States. Students should consider appropriate options for an equivalent gift that the United States could exchange with Ireland. After coming to a conclusion, students should pen a letter to the White House suggesting such an exchange.

Option Two:

President Clinton’s work in Northern Ireland qualifies as public diplomacy or diplomacy that engages directly with the citizens of another nation. For this activity, students will conduct research to find other examples of Presidents engaging in public diplomacy. Once the student finds an example, they should dig deeper and consider if the efforts of that President were ultimately successful or unsuccessful. Students should determine the factors that led to this outcome. The student’s findings can be presented to the class or summarized in a writing assignment.

Left: Education Activity Suggestions for the "Days Like This": President Clinton’s Public Diplomacy in Northern Ireland DLE
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Democratic primary debate
03/13/1992