



WANTED: FULL TIME PRESIDENT – NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

(Two 50-minute classes)

OBJECTIVE(S)

Students will determine which character traits are common to past and more recent presidents, identify day-to-day duties and responsibilities of a president, and learn legal requirements for the executive position as defined by the United States Constitution.

MATERIALS

Computer/Internet Access	“Character Cluster for Perfect President” graphic organizer
Poster Board	Markers, paint, etc.
United States Constitution	

GET READY

- ✓ Secure access to computers or computer lab with internet access.
- ✓ Make enough copies of the “Character Cluster for the Perfect President” for each team.

INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Each student will select a president of the United States to research. It is recommended that each student select a different president.
- ✓ Students will research essential characteristics that former and present presidents of the United States share using the web sites listed.
- ✓ Referencing their websites, have each students complete the “Character Cluster

for the Perfect President” worksheet for their selected president.

- ✓ After completing the Character Cluster graphic organizer, place students into teams of four. Comparing their organizers, each group will determine the common characteristics among the selected presidents.
- ✓ Using those characteristics, each group will create a “Want Ad” poster, advertising for a new president. Posters should include the following information:
 - Legal requirements (as listed in the U.S. Constitution)
 - Ideal personal characteristics
- ✓ A classroom discussion should follow to analyze results. This discussion can revolve around why certain characteristics appear essential to candidates being selected for the executive position of our country.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *Will the characteristics that you determined to be common be the same in fifty or one hundred years? Why or why not?*
- ★ *In your opinion, what are the most important personal characteristics for a president to have?*
- ★ *Do other elected officials need these personal characteristics as well?*
- ★ *How do the personal characteristics expected of presidents and other elected officials seem to have changed over time?*



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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- ★ *National Constitution Center web site which provides printable full-text of the Constitution:*
http://constitutioncenter.org/ncc_edu_text_of_the_Constitution.aspx
- ★ *Internet Public Library web site with biographical information for each president, as well as links to other informational sites:*
<http://www.ipl.org/div/potus/>
- ★ *The Official White House web site with information about individual presidents, including policy decisions made during their terms in office:*
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents>
- ★ *The National Archives web site providing links and information about individual presidential libraries around the country:*
<http://www.archives.gov/presidential-libraries/index.html>
- ★ *Miller Center of Public Affairs (University of Virginia) web site with biographical and political information for each president arranged by era:*
<http://millercenter.org/academic/american-president>



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Character Cluster for the Perfect President

Name: _____ Date: _____

Presidents Being Compared

Characteristics		

Conclusions:
