

## **Assessing Presidential Greatness: Ranking the Presidents**

**Subjects:** AP U.S. Government, U.S. Government, U.S. History

**Grade Levels:** 9-12

**Time Frame:** 1- 2, 50-minute class periods

**Materials Needed:** Evaluation criteria established in Lesson 1 and short biographies of presidents to which students can refer while comparing and ranking them.

**Summary of the Lesson:** Using the criteria established by the class in Lesson 1, rate the top ten and bottom two presidents.

**Key Concepts and Terms:** N/A

### **Lesson objectives:**

Students will be expected to:

- define and utilize key concepts and qualities related to “greatness.”
- compare, organize, and rank presidents.

### **Opening the Lesson**

Write the five criteria students will be using to rank presidents on the chalkboard or overhead. Briefly remind them of how the criteria were arrived upon.

### **Developing the Lesson**

Assuming a class of about 30, draw a 6 by 12 grid on the chalkboard. On the top of each column write Group 1, Group 2, etc. Break the class into groups of four or five (and adjust the columns as necessary) and have each group rank the top ten and bottom two presidents. Each group will need a set of brief presidential biographies. Circulate among the groups to answer questions and/or plant “controversies.”

### **Concluding the Lesson**

- Using the rankings created by the student groups, have the class vote for one list of the top ten “greatest” presidents. This, along with an explanation of the activity, would make a nice “press release” during February at about the time of Presidents’ Day.



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*Assessing Presidential Greatness worksheet.*

Rate the ten best or greatest presidents of the United States.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

On what basis do you justify your selection for each position?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_



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

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

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

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

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

Who would you rate as the two most unsuccessful presidents? Why?

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

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

Comments?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

