



**GETTING READY** Create bulletin board, collage, electronic photo album, poster, timeline, or *Wordle* ([www.wordle.net](http://www.wordle.net)) to highlight a list of successful leaders.

## Introduction

Leaders *inspire, influence and motivate* us to change. Great leaders can create or save a community, country, or company. Ineffective ones can shatter them, destroying billions of dollars or millions of lives. We can all think of leaders who, because they were incompetent or simply evil, would have been a disaster under any circumstances. Many leaders find both their greatest successes and greatest failures usually come from being challenged and willing to do what many people, in the same situation, would not do. When such decisions work out, we idolize and admire the people who made them.

We tend to remember the successes and forget the failures in leadership. A great leader is one who makes unique individual decisions—and is right. When historians rank Presidents of the United States, they usually put Abraham Lincoln at or near the top. Lincoln, uniquely, combined the highest levels of two seemingly opposite traits. Lincoln was both supremely confident and supremely humble.

**Confidence** allows a leader to chart his or her own course, whatever others say.

## Resources

1. *Time* magazine publishes lists annually of “The World’s 100 Most Influential People” in several categories with leaders being one. Visit: <http://goo.gl/q9p6C>
2. *Modern Healthcare's* annual ranking of “The 100 Most Influential People in Healthcare” honors individuals in healthcare who are deemed by their peers and an expert panel to be the most influential individuals in the industry, in terms of leadership and impact. To review the lists for these honorees since 2002, visit: <http://goo.gl/D6d0m>