

## Lincoln Then and Now

“As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master. This expresses my idea of democracy. Whatever differs from this, to the extent of the difference, is no democracy.’ That is what he said. That is what Abe Lincoln said.” Lincoln Portrait, Copland. Abraham Lincoln was the 16<sup>th</sup> president of the United States. He once said that he feared greatly that he would leave this world without accomplishing anything worth remembering. President Lincoln’s life was filled with many challenges but he never gave up trying to better himself. His commitment, compassion, and honesty are still remembered today. Abraham Lincoln’s life and leadership inspires me today.

Abraham Lincoln was put through extraordinary pressure during the Civil War. He faced generals who weren't ready to fight, huge losses of life on the battlefields, arguments among his Cabinet members, and even assassination threats. Despite all of these, he persevered. President Lincoln kept fighting until the South was defeated. Any other man would have given up. Lincoln did not. Being in high school, students are put under pressure everyday. I set goals for myself, and am always determined to accomplish them. There is no point in setting a goal that you will not complete. Even when I stand alone, I still continue to fight until I succeed.

Abraham Lincoln also inspired me to fight peer pressure. He did not listen to his Cabinet members when they told him that the Civil War was not worth it. He fought for what he believed in. He knew that what he thought was right, and he stuck to his idea.

Abraham Lincoln did not care what others thought of him. He lived for what he thought was right. This quality has inspired me to fight for what I believe in, and not be swayed by what others think. I know that to get somewhere in life, I have to have my own values and beliefs. If one does not have these, they are not considered a human being.

Abraham Lincoln was known for his leadership and easy manners. If there was ever a disagreement between the advisors and himself, his leadership style often involved telling a story that demonstrated his point. Lots of times this method worked, and people admired and respected him for it. His easy manner disarmed people to believe what Lincoln thought. This quality has inspired me to be calmer, and look at things in a new perspective. Whenever I get into an argument, I now calmly listen to my opponent's side before using my facts and mimicked leadership of President Lincoln. This strategy has allowed me to win people over.

Abraham Lincoln has inspired many Americans to persevere through the hard times. He is an inspiration and has taught me to not give up. "Fellow citizens, we cannot escape history.' That is what he said. That is what Abraham Lincoln said," Lincoln Portrait, Copland. If we cannot escape history, we must use it, cherish it, and learn from it.