



## **Social Studies Exemplary Text Student Handout**

Every single President has taken this oath: “I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States.”

Only thirty-five words! But it’s a big order if you’re President of this country. Abraham Lincoln was tops at filling that order. “I know very well that many others might in this matter or as in others, do better than I can,” he said. “But...I am here. I must do the best I can, and bear the responsibility of taking the course which I feel I ought to take.”

That’s the bottom line. Tall, short, fat, thin, talkative, quiet, vain, humble, lawyer, teacher, or soldier—this is what most of our Presidents have tried to do, each in his own way. Some succeeded. Some failed. If you want to be President—a good President—pattern your self after the best. Our best have asked more of themselves than they thought they could give. They have had the courage, spirit, and will to do what they knew was right. Most of all, their first priority has always been the people and the country they served.

St. George, Judith. (2000). *So You Want to Be President?* New York: Philomel.

This is an example of exemplary text found in *Common Core Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects: Appendix B Text Exemplars and Sample Performance Tasks*. Retrieved from [http://www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix\\_B.pdf](http://www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_B.pdf)

## Social Studies Exemplary Text Teacher Resource

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**EFL 2**  
**Word Count 208**

*Teacher introduces the text with minimal commentary and students read it independently. Teacher then reads passage aloud. Give a brief definition to words students would likely not be able to define from context (underlined in text). Teacher guides the students through a series of text-dependent questions. Complete the performance task as a cumulative evaluation of the close-reading.*

### Text-Dependent Questions

1. How many Presidents have had to take the oath the text refers to?
2. What is the main idea of the Presidential oath?
3. The oath contains the word ‘execute.’ Why did the author use this word?
4. Paraphrase the quote from Abraham Lincoln.
5. According to the last paragraph of the passage, what is a President’s first priority?
6. What are some good and bad things about being President? What kind of person does the job need?

### Performance Tasks for Informational Texts

According to the text, what personal characteristics do you think a person should have to be a good President? [RI.3.1]

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