

# Viewing Guide Answer Key

## Abraham Lincoln's Example of Statesmanship and Unity During the Civil War with Dan Mahoney & Jon Schaff | BRI Scholar Talks

**Directions:** As you view the video, answer the following questions.

1. What is statesmanship? How does it differ from politics?

*Statesmanship is when a politician has a moral vision for governing and pursues constitutionalism, the rule of law, and the public good in a prudent manner according to circumstances. Politics is ideally the pursuit of deliberation for the common good but often has a stronger sense of interest, advantage, and partisan gain.*

2. Compare and contrast statesmanship with demagoguery.

*Statesmanship is the pursuit of governing for the public good. Demagoguery is the manipulation of the public to gain popularity for the politician.*

3. What civic virtues did Abraham Lincoln promote for a self-governing people? Why is civic virtue important to self-government?

*Lincoln supported restraint, moderation, prudence, and constitutionalism. A republican or democratic form of government depends upon the civic virtue of the self-governing people.*

4. Abraham Lincoln described the Declaration of Independence and Constitution as an “apple of gold” in a “picture of silver?” What was the connection between the two Founding documents?

*The Declaration of Independence is an expression of natural rights and republican principles, while the Constitution provides a framework for governance and the rule of law.*

5. How did the Emancipation Proclamation show that President Lincoln cared about both the Constitution and morality?

*Lincoln believed that slavery was morally wrong and wanted to end the institution but showed restraint in exercising presidential powers in a constitutional and prudent manner.*

6. How did Lincoln try to unite Americans? Why is unity an important political goal?

*Lincoln stressed moderation, reconciliation, and the common ideals that knit and bound Americans together despite the horrors of the Civil War. A self-governing people can deliberate, disagree, and debate but must be united by common ideals and interests.*