

# Lincoln on Leadership

## 16 Precedents (Principles) from the 16<sup>th</sup> President!

1 Know your principles ...  
and stick to them

2 Be flexible/adaptable  
on non-essential points

3 Change with the times  
(if the change is justified!)

4 Recruit a great team

5 Solicit and consider a  
diversity of opinions

6 Communicate effectively  
(including setting the vision)

7 Stay in touch with  
subordinates and clients

8 Share the credit for success  
and take the blame for failure



Be aware of your  
own weaknesses 9

Acknowledge your mistakes and  
learn from them (always be learning) 10

Be fair and equitable 11

Be honest 12

Stay in control of  
your emotions 13

Be guided by empathy 14

Whenever possible, persuade  
rather than dictate or coerce 15

Put the cause before your personal  
ambitions and feelings (be humble) 16

### Suggested reading:

*Lincoln on Leadership: Executive Strategies for Tough Times*, by Donald T. Phillips (1993)

*Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*, by Doris Kearns Goodwin (2006)

"Lincoln's Wartime Leadership: The First Hundred Days", in the *Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association*, Volume 9, Issue 1, pp. 2-18, by Don E. Fehrenbacher (1987)

*Abraham Lincoln, su liderazgo: Las lecciones y el legado de un presidente* (Spanish), by César Vidal (2010)

### Abraham Lincoln by Kevin Wood

*Bringing history – and his story – to life!*

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