USA All-Stars
A Salute To Our Heros

Lead By Example
Learning From Leaders

Art Of The Matter
What Would You Do?

Take The Lead
Speak Up & Help Out

Lesson 6
Lesson 6: USA All-Stars

In 1975, Bill Gates started the company Microsoft. By 1998, his company controlled 95% of the world’s personal computer operating systems. A worldwide leader in business, he is also a leader in helping others. He and his wife, Melinda, began a $21 billion foundation to support programs in the areas of global health and learning.

Arthur Ashe became the first, and currently only, African-American to win the men’s singles at Wimbledon, the U.S. Open, or the Australian Open. After an early retirement from tennis due to heart surgery, Ashe used his popularity to promote human rights, education, and public health. He created ABC Cities program which combines tennis and academics, the Safe Passage Foundation for poor children, a scholarship program for young tennis players, and 15-Love, a drug abuse program.

In the 1960s Roberto Clemente led the National League in batting four times. He played in the 1971 World Series and became the first Hispanic player to reach 3,000 hits, including 240 home runs. Roberto was proud of his Puerto Rican heritage and stood up for minority rights. He died in a plane crash in 1972, bringing supplies to survivors of an earthquake in Nicaragua. The next year he was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

Oprah Winfrey is a television host, actress, writer, producer, and philanthropist. She is a dedicated activist for children’s rights. She started the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls in South Africa. Oprah has influenced people all over the world to read, exercise, and think about themselves and others.

At 13 years old, Ryan White contracted AIDS from receiving tainted blood as part of his treatment for a blood disease. Banned from school, Ryan fought to be allowed to return and be treated like a regular kid. He said he wanted to be the “first kid with AIDS to speak out, fight back—and win.” His courage made him a national spokesperson for AIDS, helping people to better understand the disease.
Juliette Gordon Low was the founder of the Girl Scouts of the USA. From the original 18 girls who made up the first troop in Savannah, Georgia, Girl Scouting has grown to 3.7 million members. Juliette brought girls of all backgrounds into the out-of-doors, encouraging them to become future leaders and preparing them to be active citizens. Today, Girl Scouts is the largest educational organization for girls in the world.

William Jefferson (Bill) Clinton was the 42nd President of the United States. Since leaving office in 2001, Mr. Clinton has directed his energies to encouraging each of us to become active citizens. Through the Clinton Foundation, he has established a website called MyCommitment.com, a place to read stories about individuals who are helping in their communities, and a place to find ideas on how we can help in our own communities. Mr. Clinton’s work is as a connector bringing a wide range of people together to convert good ideas into action.

Sticky Situation

It is time to elect a student council representative in your class and the teacher discusses the criteria necessary for a good representative. A popular classmate with whom you want to be friendly asks you if you will draw posters for his/her campaign. He/she explains that you are the best artist in the class. You know that this student does not fit the teacher’s criteria for a “good” student council representative.

What would you do? Why?
Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Read more about it!

Civic Literacy Links
USA All-Stars

- Oprah Winfrey by Wil Mara
- Time for Kids Biographies: Theodore Roosevelt, The Adventurous Presidents

Let’s Hear Your Voices!

Who do you think is a leader?
Think about all of the characteristics of a leader. Then nominate someone you think is a leader and give the reasons why you selected him/her.

★ Illustrate something about the person you selected. Post your nomination on the Student Voices Bulletin Board. Be sure to look at who other students in your class selected as a leader. Do you want to know more about any of the other nominees?