

The “Burden” of Leadership

Suggested Application: Social Studies, Language Arts, Leadership, Vietnam War

OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- explain and identify character traits and leadership styles that are effective in leading groups and/or individuals in various situations and experiences in life

Medal of Honor Focus: Paul Bucha, U.S. Army, Vietnam War and Jay Vargas, U.S. Marine Corps, Vietnam War

Introductory Activity:

Students spend three to five minutes writing about someone who they look up to and think is a strong leader. This could be anyone they know personally or anywhere in life. Students discuss with the person next to them, and then the teacher asks for a few responses to be shared with the class.

Small Group Activity:

- Teacher hands out worksheet and asks the students to read over the first section, questions 1-3, and be prepared to locate certain information as they watch the video on Paul Bucha. Watch video.
- Students answer questions 1-3, and teacher assists if students need help recalling or clarifying video segments or information.
- Students discuss in small groups what they wrote and why. Teacher calls on select groups to share out.
- Teacher asks students to read over questions 4-6 and be prepared to locate or jot down certain information. Watch video on Jay Vargas.
- Students answer questions 4-6, and teacher assists if students need help recalling or clarifying video segments or information.
- Students discuss in small groups what they wrote and why. Teacher calls on select groups to share out.

Whole Group Activity:

Teacher and students move to page two of the worksheet. Teacher explains Venn diagram and ensures that students are aware of directions. Students complete the worksheet, working in pairs if necessary.

Teacher asks students to come forward and fill out Venn diagram drawn on front board and leads discussion as students do. Class can debate or clarify as needed.

Concluding Activity:

Students reflect on their own lives and answer the last question about leadership and what situations they may have been in and what was good or bad about that experience.

Assessment:

Worksheets

Resources:

Jay Vargas and Paul Bucha Living History videos, worksheets

Name _____ Period _____

The “Burden” of Leadership - Activity 1

Directions: Watch the videos of Medal of Honor Recipients Paul Bucha and Jay Vargas. At the conclusion of each video answer the questions below by section. Then, be prepared to share what you wrote with a group or the class.

Captain Paul Bucha – U.S. Army, Vietnam War

Analyze the quotes:

1. “If you had your choice of company commanders you wouldn't pick me, but if I had my choice of soldiers I'd pick you.” What do you think Captain Bucha meant by that, and what did that show as a leader?

2. “As a young army officer you have the opportunity, the burden, and the privilege to look a young man in the eye and ask him to go do something, and they know what you're asking them means in all likelihood they are not coming back.” Explain what Bucha means and what it teaches you about leadership.

3. What did Bucha ask his men to do and he would bring them all home? _____
How important is trust in any relationship of family, leadership, teamwork?

Colonel Jay Vargas – U.S. Marines Corps, Vietnam War

4. Colonel Vargas at one point during the battle called artillery in on his own position, knowingly putting himself in the line of fire. As a leader what did that show his men and what character traits does that exemplify in your mind?

5. Toward the end of the video, Vargas mentions his Three Golden Rules. Finish each quote below; then slightly modify each to make it work for you today as if you were a leader in school, sports, family, church, or other assignments and activities. You may decide you do not need to change the quote at all. If so write: No Change

A: “Always set

Modify:

B. “Always take

Modify:

C: “Never ask a Marine

Modify:

6. Which of the three seems the most difficult and why?

Name _____ Period _____

The "Burden" of Leadership - Activity 2

PERSONAL ANALYSIS

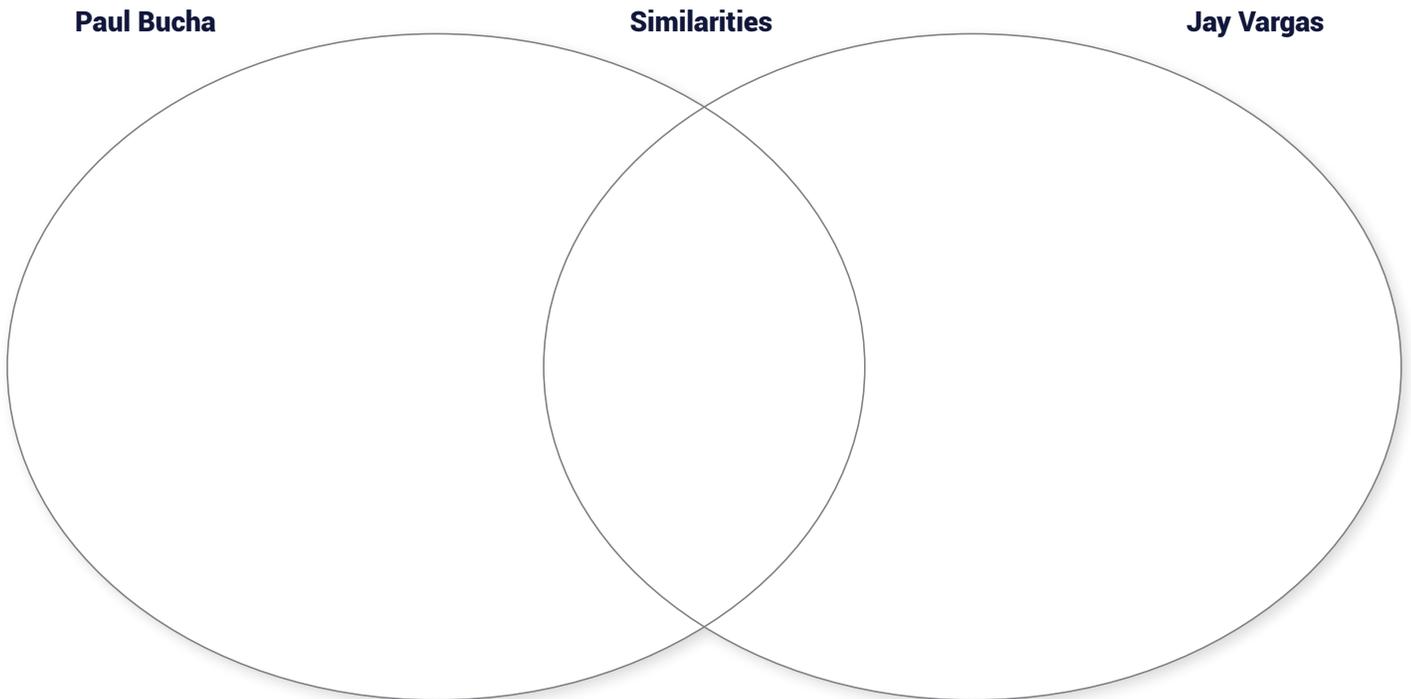
Directions: Fill out the Venn diagram about Paul Bucha and Jay Vargas. In each of the three areas complete the requested information. Once you have completed the diagram, answer the prompt below. Remember to be detailed and honest in your answers.

Differences:

- Write one character trait that each man displayed that may have been different from the other, basing it only on the action you saw in the video.
- Write two situations where the Recipient showed leadership different from the other.
- Write one lesson you learned from each of the Recipients based on his actions.

Similarities:

- Write one to two character traits of the six core values that both men demonstrated.
- Write two bullet points about common leadership styles of both men.
- Write two similarities about the type of conflict they were in.



Describe a time in your life when you were either being led by someone or you were leading a group through a difficult challenge, task, crisis, event, or experience. Detail what went well or poorly and how your leadership or the leadership of another was excellent or lacking and why.
