

Name:

Per:



Why on God's green Earth would anybody want to be President? The weight of the world rests on your shoulders... and at any given point in office, almost half of the country hates you over one issue or another. Given what a person has to go through to become our nation's Commander-in-Chief – and what is said or done to them while in office – why? Seriously. Why?

The President's job can't be described as easy, but, in principle, it is simple: sign or veto bills, command the armed forces, preside over the Executive Branch, nominate high judges, and do a few other mainly ceremonial duties (you know, give a fancy speech – that you don't even write – on some special anniversary). Of course this is marginalizing all that goes on as President, but you get the idea. With so many advisors and Cabinet members, a person with above average intelligence and a minimum of organizational capability could easily do the job. That being said, what other characteristics should a President have?



Here's what you're going to do:

Through the miracle of science (of the Frankenstein's Monster variety), you will create your very own President from scratch by using the 10 Presidential categories (listed below) and a handful of other ideal traits. This new President Cyborg will be our ultimate Commander-in-Chief... and I, for starters, welcome our new biomechatronic savior to the Oval Office! ALL HAIL PRESIDENT VIC STONE!

- (1) "Public Persuasion"
- (2) "Crisis Leadership"
- (3) "Economic Management"
- (4) "Moral Authority"
- (5) "International Relations"
- (6) "Administrative Skills"
- (7) "Relations with Congress"
- (8) "Vision/Setting Agenda"
- (9) "Pursued Equal Justice for All"
- (10) "Performance Within Context of Times"



The following gives a brief description about these categories.

(1) "**Public Persuasion**": The ability to persuade the public to his point of view is one of the most powerful weapons a President possesses. It's also one that he most needs to succeed. Many times Congress is forced to enact a large part of a President's agenda because the public likes him. However, if a President has a hard time connecting with the public, this can spell doom for his agenda and cause scandals to be blown out of proportion by an angry public. How a President is perceived by the people (or how he "charms" them) greatly affects his standing in the ranks.

(2) "**Crisis Leadership**": The U.S. public looks to the President as its political and economic leader, especially when the proverbial crap has hit the fan. If a President takes office in the midst of an economic crisis (recession, depression, etc.), how did he handle it? A successful President has to have a program ready to stimulate the economy if necessary... and he has to be able to pass it (which can be affected by his relationship with the public or Congress). "Crisis leadership" also refers to international (foreign) crises. If the U.S. went to war during his Presidency, how did he handle it? Did the country come out of the conflict stronger or weaker? Was the country greatly split over going to war? If the U.S. was attacked, how did your President respond? Was your President able to unite the country and guide it through the war? The way a President reacts to major crises (at home or abroad), greatly affects his standing with the public and his rankings in the polls.

(3) "**Economic Management**": A President is held responsible for the economic climate of the country, whether times are good or bad when he assumes the role as Chief Executive. How was America's economy during your President's time in office? How much "credit" and how much "blame" does your President deserve for the economy? What were his economic policies? How was trade within the U.S. and with foreign countries? Were there new jobs being created, or were people out of work and starving? A booming economy can get a President re-elected even if he is facing personal scandals... and a bad one is a one-way ticket to defeat at the polls.

(4) "**Moral Authority**": What kind of person was your President? The attributes of morality (your President's character and integrity) are important when judging Presidents. A President who promotes corruption, lies to the public, or is involved in scandals will obviously be ranked lower than an honest President. At the same time, a President who wasn't very successful in office can restore his reputation and rise in the rankings for being a true humanitarian and an honest person.

(5) **“International Relations”**: Major international (foreign) policy success can make up for domestic (home) failure. Respect from foreign nations is very important. What types of treaties were signed with foreign nations? Did the public approve? In general, how did the world view the U.S. during your President’s time in office? If there were repeated wars, what was the world’s take on them? Did the world view the U.S. as the aggressor or as a country there to help?

(6) **“Administrative Skills”**: Simply put, did your President know how to act as a President? A President has to make policy (domestic and foreign) for the country. The President outlines his policies in his inaugural address, his annual State of the Union addresses, and especially in his budget proposals. Presidents are also measured by the people they appoint to public office. This area of evaluation includes appointments to the U.S. Supreme Court and to his Cabinet. Poor selection in these areas destroyed many Presidencies when the appointees turned out to be inept and corrupt. Appointing good, skilled people reflects positively on a President.

(7) **“Relations with Congress”**: The President doesn’t call all of the shots. This often means having to get along with a Congress full of people from his rival political party. How successful was your President in getting legislation through Congress? Did Congress get along with your President, or was there constant bickering and vetoing going on? A President’s relationship with Congress can make his Presidency a living hell if he isn’t careful. If he is pushy and takes a heavy-handed approach, Congress may resent him, and he is not likely to be very successful. If a President is willing to lobby Congress and bargain and deal with its members, he can be very successful. This is always made easier when public opinion is on the President’s side, thus giving him the upper hand with Congress.

(8) **“Vision/Setting Agenda”**: Some Presidents come into office without a vision of what they want to accomplish. For some, this is expected because they were catapulted into the Oval Office after a Presidential assassination or death. However, for those elected straight into office, not having a vision usually results in a failed Presidency. Without a master plan, a President is at the mercy of Congress, which can take over and make policies for the country. The more successful Presidents have had a vision and wanted to use the office of President to change the U.S. With a vision to guide them, Presidents tend to be more active as they try to implement their agenda. Even if they’re not successful, they still get credit for having had a vision. What was your President’s “goals”? Did he achieve them?

(9) **“Pursued Equal Justice for All”**: In modern times, a President’s legislation has been judged according to the impact his policies have had on social equality in U.S. society. Policies that benefit minorities and the poor enhance a President’s ranking in the polls. How did your President treat minorities? Did he pass any legislation that helped the advancement of minorities... or did he own a few? If slavery existed during your President’s tenure, what was his stance? Did he unite (or divide) America concerning the slavery issue? Did he support the Civil Rights Movement?

(10) **“Performance Within Context of Times”**: Obviously, the political issues during the early days of the U.S. versus more recently are so drastically different that many of the early Presidents will lose points when judged through today’s “standards” (like the category “Pursued Equal Justice for All”). Certainly, slavery is no longer an issue today... which means it isn’t part of a modern-day President’s policy whereas it might have been the only issue discussed when your President was in office. For reasons such as that, this category is factored into your President’s overall ranking. All things considered, how did your President do with what he had available to him at the time? While not necessarily correct when viewed by historians today, were your President’s appointments, decisions, policies, and legislation “in line” with the status quo of his day?



Rank	Final Score	President's Name	Efficiency
1	90.2	Abraham Lincoln	Most Effective
2	85.4	George Washington	Extremely Effective
3	83.7	Franklin D. Roosevelt	Extremely Effective
4	78.1	Theodore Roosevelt	Very Effective
5	70.8	Harry S. Truman	Very Effective
6	70.1	John F. Kennedy	Very Effective
7	69.8	Thomas Jefferson	Considerably Effective
8	68.9	Dwight D. Eisenhower	Considerably Effective
9	68.3	Woodrow Wilson	Considerably Effective
10	67.1	Ronald Reagan	Considerably Effective
11	64.1	Lyndon B. Johnson	Considerably Effective
12	60.6	James K. Polk	Considerably Effective
13	60.6	Andrew Jackson	Considerably Effective
14	60.5	James Monroe	Considerably Effective
15	60.5	Bill Clinton	Considerably Effective
16	59.9	William McKinley	Effective
17	54.5	John Adams	Effective
18	54.2	George H. W. Bush	Effective
19	54.2	John Quincy Adams	Effective
20	53.5	James Madison	Effective
21	52.3	Grover Cleveland	Effective
22	50.9	Gerald R. Ford	Effective
23	49.0	Ulysses S. Grant	Slightly Effective
24	48.5	William H. Taft	Slightly Effective
25	47.4	Jimmy Carter	Slightly Effective
26	46.9	Calvin Coolidge	Slightly Effective
27	45.0	Richard M. Nixon	Slightly Effective
28	44.5	James A. Garfield	Slightly Effective
29	44.3	Zachary Taylor	Slightly Effective
30	44.2	Benjamin Harrison	Slightly Effective
31	43.5	Martin Van Buren	Slightly Effective
32	42.0	Chester A. Arthur	Slightly Effective
33	40.9	Rutherford B. Hayes	Slightly Effective
34	38.9	Herbert Hoover	Minimally Effective
35	37.2	John Tyler	Minimally Effective
36	36.2	George W. Bush	Minimally Effective
37	35.1	Millard Fillmore	Minimally Effective
38	32.7	Warren G. Harding	Minimally Effective
39	32.4	William Henry Harrison	Minimally Effective
40	28.7	Franklin D. Pierce	Hardly Effective
41	25.8	Andrew Johnson	Hardly Effective
42	22.7	James Buchanan	Hardly Effective

This list was compiled by C-SPAN in 2009 and includes the opinions of many historians from across the political spectrum. Dr. Hartnell has determined it to be the most consistent and bias-free poll available for you to reference. Historians used a scale of 1 ("not effective") to 10 ("most effective") in order to rate each President on the 10 categories of leadership. Responses were tabulated by averaging all of the responses to come up with a final number out of 100.

The efficiency scale is as follows:

- 01-19 ("not")
- 20-29 ("hardly")
- 30-39 ("minimally")
- 40-49 ("slightly")
- 50-59 ("effective")
- 60-69 ("considerably")
- 70-79 ("very")
- 80-89 ("extremely")
- 90-100 ("most")

NOTE: A score of "slightly" means the President was "slightly effective".

Complete the following page in order to create your President Cyborg!

The Political Categories

President's Name _____

Efficiency Imp.	Category	What Presidential Genes?
_____	<i>Public Persuasion</i>	_____
_____	<i>Crisis Leadership</i>	_____
_____	<i>Economic Management</i>	_____
_____	<i>Moral Authority</i>	_____
_____	<i>Inter. Relations</i>	_____
_____	<i>Administ. Skills</i>	_____
_____	<i>Relations w/Congress</i>	_____
_____	<i>Vision/Set Agenda</i>	_____
_____	<i>Equal Justice</i>	_____
_____	<i>Performance w/Times</i>	_____



The Personal Categories

Gender _____ Oratory skills like _____

Height like _____ Charisma like _____

Weight like _____ Debate skills like _____

Religion like _____ Vice President like _____

Education like _____ Cabinet like _____

Life b4 Prez like _____ Political affiliation _____

Married? **Yes** **No** Children? **Yes** (How many? _____) **No**

