

Life Skills• Cadette Badge Blueprint



Finding Common Ground Badge

Purpose of Badge:

Understanding strategies for bringing people together and how to find common ground through exploring the music of Hamilton: An American Musical; and understanding fact and fiction in the music.

Supplies needed: none

Step 1: Difference of Background:

Listen to the songs “Alexander Hamilton” and “Aaron Burr, Sir”. In each song listen for information about their backgrounds, such as youth, influences in their lives, significant moments in their life, adulthood. Write out these comparisons and determine how these differences in their backgrounds could have influenced their political outlooks. Take a look at your own background in comparison with either the characters presented in “Alexander Hamilton” or “Aaron Burr” and see what circumstances in your background shaped you into who you are.

Step 2: Decision Making:

Listen to the song “Washington on Your Side” and “The Election of 1800” to determine if all or one of these methods were used in the song.

Method 1 Compromise: an agreement or a settlement of a dispute that is reached by each side making concessions.

Method 2 Majority Rules: A decision is made when the more than half of the votes are in favor on a certain choice.

Method 3 Consensus: a general agreement in a group

Step 3: Understand a Famous American Debate: Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson.

Listen to the songs “Cabinet Battle 1” and “Cabinet Battle 2”. While listening to the songs ensure you are taking notes, which sides are Hamilton and Jefferson on for the different topics: “a central federal government”, “national bank” and “supporting the French in the revolution.” What other areas did you hear them debate on? Once you’ve taken your notes, research “Debates between Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson” and determine what is fact and fiction between the musical and real life on their different views.

Step 4: A State or National Compromise:

Listen to the song “The Room Where it Happens”. After listening to the song, answer the following questions: Where did Alexander Hamilton compromise? Where did Thomas

Jefferson and James Madison compromise? How did the compromise made by both sides effect our nation in the song? Would you have made a different choice than the characters in the musical?

Step 5: Suggestion Solutions for a Conflict:

Listen to the song “Your Obedient Servant” In the songs listen closely to both Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr’s sides. Determine, what decision could Aaron have made to mediate the conflict between him and Hamilton? How could Hamilton have responded to Burr? Was Hamilton intentionally antagonizing Burr? Listen to the song “The World was Wide enough” in the song what does Aaron Burr express? In the song “The World was Wide Enough”, what does Burr express over his relationship with Hamilton? After listening to both songs and answering the questions, write a response on how you would have mediated a conflict between the two men, write as if you would be speaking to them directly. Research “Duel between Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr” to find out the real life circumstances of their duel, Do you think different decision could have been made by Burr to prevent the duel?

Congrats you have now earned your Finding Common Ground Badge!

Remember, the Volunteer Toolkit Online has more activities to explore and is a great resource for planning meetings.