# Interpreting Historical Events Through the
# Lens of Psychological Science
# NCSS National Convention - 2012

Abraham Lincoln included a number of political rivals in his presidential Cabinet.  For example, his Secretary of State, William H. Seward lost the Republican nomination to Lincoln in 1860.  Explain how each of the following psychological concepts may have contributed to Lincoln's decision to include rivals in his cabinet and/ or how the cabinet members interacted with each other.

- belief perseverance
- cognitive dissonance theory
- confirmation bias
- emotional intelligence
- foot in the door phenomena
- frustration aggression principal
- fundamental attribution error
- group polarization
- groupthink
- informative/normative social influence
- internal/external locus of control
- mental set
- ingroup/outgroup
- social trap
- spotlight effect

The frustration-aggression principle suggests people blocked in their attempts to achieve a goal will become angry resulting in aggression.  Identify and explain three historical events demonstrating the frustration-aggression principle.

After a period of interacting and discussion within a group, individual attitudes tend to mirror that of the overall group.  This phenomena is referred to as group polarization.  Compare and contrast the Presidential Election of 2012 with any other presidential election within the context of group polarization.

Often within groups of conflicting people, each group sees the other as a mirror image of itself.  Most often, a group sees itself as correct and peaceful while viewing the other as evil and aggressive.  Give historical examples how this mirror-image perception is revealed in  wartime.

**Contact Information:**

Kent Korek
Germantown High School
W180 N11501 River Lane
Gemantown, WI 53022
262.253.3400
kkorek@germantown.k12.wi.us
http://www.germantownschools.org/faculty/kkorek/

# Psychological Concepts

accommodation
achievement motivation
algorithm
altruism
antisocial personality disorder
assimilation
attribution theory
availability heuristic
behaviorism
belief perseverance
bottom-up processing
bystander effect
catharsis
central route to persuasion
change blindness
cognitive learning
cognitive dissonance theory
collectivism
confirmation bias
conflict
conformity
correlation
creativity
critical thinking
crystallized intelligence
culture
defense mechanisms
deindividuation
delusions
discrimination
drive-reduction theory
ego
egocentrism
emotional intelligence
evolutionary psychology
external locus of control
extrinsic motivation
feel-good, do-good phenomenon
flashbulb memory
flow
fluid intelligence
foot-in-the-door phenomenon
framing
frustration-aggression principle
fundamental attribution error
gender typing
gender role

general adaptation syndrome
gestalt
group polarization
grouping
groupthink
heuristic
hierarchy of needs
hindsight bias
homeostasis
human factors psychology
humanistic psychology
id
inattentional blindness
incentive
individualism
industrial-organizational (I/O)
psychology
informational social influence
ingroup
ingroup bias
internal locus of control
intrinsic motivation
intuition
just-world phenomenon
law of effect
learned helplessness
linguistic determinism
mental set
mere exposure effect
mirror-image perceptions
misinformation effect
modeling
mood-congruent memory
motivation
narcissism
natural selection
nature-nurture issue
negative reinforcement
norm
normative social influence
obedience
obsessive-compulsive disorder
organizational psychology
other-race effect
outgroup
overconfidence
perceptual set

peripheral route to persuasion
personal control
placebo effect
positive psychology
post-traumatic stress disorder
prejudice
priming
proactive interference
problem-focused coping
prosocial behavior
reciprocal determinism
reciprocity norm
relative deprivation
repression
resilience
retroactive interference
role
scapegoat theory
schema
selective attention
self-serving bias
self-esteem
self-concept
self-control
sensory adaptation
serial position effect
social leadership
social trap
social identity
social-cognitive perspective
social-responsibility norm
social loafing
social facilitation
social exchange theory
spotlight effect
stereotype threat
stereotype
subjective well-being
superego
superordinate goals
task leadership
temperament
terror-management theory
top-down processing
Type A
Type B