

WHERE'S THE LINE?

YOU Are the Answer to What Ails America

Class 5 Handout • The 3 Ps: Personal • Professional • Persistent • iGovern.us

A six-week course: the 5-Minute Method to restore American self-government

CLASS 5 AT A GLANCE

The Principle: Delegation without instruction, communication, and review is ABDICATION. *“Public discussion is a political duty ... the greatest menace to freedom is an inert people.”* (Brandeis, *Whitney v. California*, 1927)

The Method: PERSONAL (“please” and “thank you” are the magic words) • PROFESSIONAL (“What can I do to help YOU?” — money & manpower) • PERSISTENT (P.U.S.H. — five minutes, every week).

The Force: *“Public sentiment is everything. With public sentiment, nothing can fail; without it, nothing can succeed.”* (Lincoln, 1858)

Homework: Thank your four State agents, teach one person the 3 Ps, and ask one agent: “What can I do to help you do the job I hired you for?”

Liberty Is NOT a Spectator Sport

You’ve hired your fiduciaries (Class 4). Now the boss’s real work begins: **instruct, communicate, review**. In trust law, a principal who hires a trustee and never instructs, never communicates, never reviews hasn’t delegated — he has abdicated, and his silence reads as consent. The Constitution guarantees the Citizen Leader/sovereign’s channels of direction: petition, assembly, instruction, speech, and election. Using them is not a hobby; it is the sovereign’s job description.

“Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom, must, like men, undergo the fatigues of supporting it.”

— Thomas Paine, *The American Crisis* No. 4 (1777)

“The censorial power is in the people over the Government, and not in the Government over the people.”

— James Madison, Report of 1800

Fill in the Blanks: The Frame

1. Delegation without instruction, communication, and review is _____.
2. Brandeis: the greatest menace to freedom is an _____ people.
3. Lincoln: public _____ is everything.
4. Always identify yourself as a _____ when communicating with your leaders.

P #1 — PERSONAL: “Please” and “Thank You” Are the Magic Words

Your agents are human beings — families, part-time pay, full-time-plus workloads, hundreds of messages a week (thousands in session). Most of what they hear is the ALL-CAPS email. Ordinary courtesy stands out like a beacon: lead with gratitude (a genuine thank-you lands like a jolt of energy), always identify yourself as a constituent, prefer the personal over the mass-produced — a handwritten note is pure gold because it is rare — and assume your agent is a decent person doing a hard job, even when their politics differ. **We teach people how to treat us by how we treat them.**

“Tart Words make no Friends; a spoonful of Honey will catch more Flies than a Gallon of Vinegar.”

— Benjamin Franklin, Poor Richard’s Almanack (1744)

“If you would win a man to your cause, first convince him that you are his sincere friend.”

— Abraham Lincoln, Temperance Address (1842)

“When angry, count ten, before you speak; if very angry, an hundred.”

— Thomas Jefferson, “A Decalogue of Canons” (1825)

P #2 — PROFESSIONAL: “What Can I Do to Help YOU?”

The most important P turns the usual posture inside out. Not “what have you done for me?” but ***“What am I doing to help you/my agent succeed at this difficult job I hired them to do?”*** Two forms of “currency”: **MONEY** (websites, newsletters, mailers, event venues — modest, disclosed support) and **MANPOWER** (signs, canvassing, cottage meetings, research, bill summaries, hearing prep, one-pagers, town halls). Align the help to the office: research and one-pagers for your Representative and Senator; federalism-litigation research and amicus allies for your Attorney General; public education and interstate leads for your Governor. And bring tools — the [NFI Federalism Toolkit](#), [Federalism Index](#) and [Federalism Policy Tracker](#) (federalismindex.org) with a one-line note: “Saw this; thought it could help on [issue].”

“Well done is better than well said.”

— Benjamin Franklin, Poor Richard’s Almanack (1737)

“The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena.”

— Theodore Roosevelt, “Citizenship in a Republic” (1910)

P #3 — PERSISTENT: P.U.S.H. — Persist Until Something Happens

One message vanishes in the flood; a cadence builds a relationship. The weekly discipline — five minutes: **one outreach, one follow-up, one share**. Follow up kindly (“Just checking whether my note on [X] reached you — happy to help with the legwork”). Respectful, friendly, unstoppable: you’re not pestering — you’re governing. And never the ALL-CAPS alternative: *“You don’t lead by hitting people over the head — that’s assault, not leadership”* (Eisenhower). *“Civility is not a sign of weakness”* (Kennedy, 1961).

“Perseverance and spirit have done wonders in all ages.”

— George Washington to Philip Schuyler (1777)

“I propose to fight it out on this line if it takes all summer.”

— Ulysses S. Grant, Spotsylvania dispatch (1864)

Fill in the Blanks: The 3 Ps

5. The three Ps of influence are Personal, Professional, and _____.
6. The Professional question: “What can I do to help YOU be more _____ at this job?”
7. The two currencies of Professional help are _____ and _____.
8. P.U.S.H. stands for Persist Until Something _____.
9. The weekly cadence: one outreach, one _____, one share.
10. Franklin: a spoonful of _____ catches more flies than a gallon of _____.

The Communications Ladder

Impact	Method
GOLD	Face-to-face: town halls, district office visits, caucuses, community events — you become a person, not an inbox entry
HIGH	Handwritten note — so rare it gets kept; 60 seconds of effort reads as pure commitment
HIGH	Phone call · personal text (if invited) — direct, human, brief
SOLID	Personal email · direct message — your words, your district, your address
STEADY	Public social media: follow, comment, share their good work between contacts
LOW	Form emails & petitions — white noise; if you must, rewrite in your own words

The 3-Sentence Note (Write Yours Tonight)

The template: *“Rep. Smith — Thank you for serving. I’m a constituent in House District 12. I’m learning how the State–Federal partnership is supposed to work — how can **I** help you defend one boundary line this month?”*

Sentence 1 (Personal): gratitude + constituent identity. Sentence 2: one idea you’re learning. Sentence 3 (Professional): the ask — how can I help? Then (Persistent): calendar the follow-up for next week.

My 3-sentence note to _____ :

The Founders' Proof at Scale: Committees of Correspondence

November 1772: Samuel Adams organized the **Boston Committee of Correspondence** — ordinary citizens, town by town, on a standing discipline of writing, sharing intelligence, and coordinating with their assemblies. Within two years the network spanned the colonies and became the machinery Madison described in Federalist 46: “A correspondence would be opened. Plans of resistance would be concerted. One spirit would animate and conduct the whole.” **Personal, Professional, Persistent** — at national scale, before the nation existed. The modern descendant: **Impact Councils — 100 servant sovereigns per legislative district (the 10×10 Initiative)**, dividing the work and keeping the cadence together. One voice is heard; a choir is remembered. Join your State’s Impact Community at iGovern.us.

“Americans of all ages, all conditions, and all dispositions constantly form associations.”

— Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* (1835)

Your Week 5 Call to Action — 5 Minutes

1. **Thank or compliment each of your four primary State agents** (Representative, Senator, Attorney General, Governor) — handwritten if you can, something specific, always as a constituent.
2. **Teach someone the 3 Ps — Personal, Professional, Persistent** — and why liberty is not a spectator sport.
3. **Ask one agent:** “I’m learning the People are sovereign, and I want to help you tackle this tough job I hired you for. What can I do to support you?” (Nervous? Start with: “I’m sorry I haven’t stepped up before — but I’m here now.”)

Reflect: Which P comes easiest to you — and which will take practice?

Next week — the final KNOW to initialize the 5-Minute Method: KNOW #6 — Multi-Level Liberty: how to leverage your voice and Lift Where We Stand.

Answer Key (Fill in the Blanks)

The Frame: 1. abdication 2. inert 3. sentiment 4. constituent · The 3 Ps: 1. Persistent 2. successful (effective) 3. money, manpower 4. Happens 5. follow-up 6. honey, vinegar