Lesson Plan: The Trial of Abraham Lincoln

Assessment:

Students will be evaluated through informal checks for understanding, teacher observation, self-reflections, and performing an authentic task (GRASP) evaluated by a rubric. (See rubric and GRASP)

GRASP:

GOAL	Your task is to take on the character of a key figure from the Civil War and based on student performance, decide whether Abraham Lincoln exceeded his presidential powers as outlined in Article II of the U.S. Constitution for his acts during the Civil War.
Role	You will take on the character of a witness, a juror or an attorney during the impeachment trial of Abraham Lincoln.
Audience	A jury of your peers who will evaluate the guilt or innocence of the defendant based on student witness performance.
Situation	Abraham Lincoln faced many obstacles during the Civil War and creatively handled them to the eventual success of the Union. Opponents of his policies have brought him to court to face charges for exceeding his presidential powers.
Purpose	To deepen student understanding of the important figures and events of the Civil War and help define the powers listed in the articles of the Constitution.

Quality Criteria: Teacher/Peer Scoring Guide/Rubric

Level of Understanding demonstrated	4 – Advanced	3 – Proficient	2 – Approaching Proficiency	1 – Basic
Based on their paper and performance, students demonstrate understanding.	Strongly demonstrates a thorough understanding of the impeachment process and the development of the Presidential emergency powers as applied to the Civil War.	Demonstrates an understanding of the impeachment process and the development of the Presidential emergency powers as applied to the Civil War.	Some understanding of the impeachment process and the development of the Presidential emergency powers as applied to the Civil War.	Understanding of the impeachment process and the development of the Presidential emergency powers as applied to the Civil War is unclear and/or incomplete.