

**Background:** By consensus, our two greatest Presidents are Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. Yet somehow, between the two, Lincoln seems “more real”. This is, in part, because we can “see” Lincoln in photographs, and that makes him “real” in our mind. Washington, on the other hand, is more “marble and myth”. The closest we have to the “real” Washington is the silhouette you were shown (which was from the Constitutional Convention in 1786-87). Indeed, for us, Washington is “the shadow man”, often described as implacable, brave, daring, and dignified. But who was the “real” George Washington? At the heart, and beyond the “marble and myth”, what kind of man was he in the flesh and bones? The answers may surprise you as we learn about this most recognizable, yet little really known, man.

**Assignment:**

1. Construct a “Top Ten List” entitled “George Washington: The Man Behind the Marble”. Focus your ten items on what you believe are little known facts about Washington that should be known by the public if we are to truly understand what this great figure in American History was all about. (10 points)
2. Write a fitting funeral eulogy (3/4 to 1 page) you would have given upon the death of Washington, and write an epithet that you believe should be found on the gravestone of Washington. (10 points)
3. Reflect on “Washington, the Man Behind the Marble Statue”. In what ways is his life experience one that can serve as a model / inspiration for you today? Pay particular attention to the ways in which he grew and transformed himself as a person throughout his life; as the selflessness we often associate with Washington (which is denoted in the title of the video) is something that he, at one point in his life, would not have been capable of. What is ironic about Washington’s life?

