**Stalin and Trotsky**

*Directions: Either on your own or with a partner, complete the following activities.*

**Part 1:** The Russian Civil War had cost even more Russian lives than in World War I; the Russian economy was in ruins. In 1918, Lenin was shot twice by a Socialist revolutionary. He was not killed, but in 1922 he suffered a stroke and then three more in 1923. The strokes left him severely disabled and in January 1924, he died. There were several Communist figures who were possible candidates to take his place, but instead of holding elections, the Communist Party chose the person who showed the greatest power within the party. Among the contenders were two men who became bitter rivals. They were Leon Trotsky and Joseph Stalin. Include a picture of each below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Leon Trotsky** | **Joseph Stalin** |
|  |  |

**Part 2:** In one column below, list Trotsky’s qualities for leadership of the Communist Party, and in the other column, list Stalin’s qualities for leadership of the Communist Party. Next, list Trotsky and Stalin’s individual weaknesses. Use the following websites to gain insight on these men, and be specific about what aspects of their lives led you to these decisions.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/trotsky_leon.shtml>

<https://www.bbc.com/timelines/z8nbcdm>

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Leon Trotsky** | **Joseph Stalin** |
| Strengths:*
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*

Weaknesses:*
*
 | Strengths:*
*
*

Weaknesses:*
*
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**Part 3:** Finally, make a poster or advertisement on paper, campaigning for either Trotsky or Stalin to head the Communist Party, announcing your chosen candidate’s qualities. You can use any of the propaganda techniques or rhetorical devices we studied in the stations. I should be able to identify at least two techniques or devices in your poster.