Lesson Plan

**Level 1: Contributions Approach**
1. Activate prior experience: In what capacity have you heard of Benjamin Sumner Welles?
2. Read the biographical information (above) and explore additional resources here [https://legacyprojectchicago.org/person/benjamin-sumner-welles](https://legacyprojectchicago.org/person/benjamin-sumner-welles)
3. Read this link at [http://www.gutenberg-e.org/osc01/frames/fosc08.html](http://www.gutenberg-e.org/osc01/frames/fosc08.html). Group Discussion: Describe his diplomatic skills, achievements, and how suspicions about his gay identity resulted in him being removed from his position.
4. Extend knowledge: How do you think homophobia during this time period impacted the United States?

**Level 2: Additive Approach**
1. Read [http://www.gutenberg-e.org/osc01/frames/fosc08.html](http://www.gutenberg-e.org/osc01/frames/fosc08.html). What are some factors that led to Welles leaving his position?

**Level 3: Transformational Approach**
1. Read [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sumner_Welles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sumner_Welles). Welles was from a well-connected political family. Explain how his upbringing and access to powerful people became a foundation for his personal political beliefs.
2. Although Welles was an accomplished diplomat, his personal life exposed his gay identity. What was the result of this exposure for both his personal life and career? How did he continue to contribute FDR was forced to fire him?

**Level 4: Social Action Approach**
1. Read [http://www.reformation.org/welles-confidential-magazine.html](http://www.reformation.org/welles-confidential-magazine.html). Why do you think this kind of article was written about Welles?
2. Write an essay describing your reaction to Welles’s rise as a diplomat while secretly being a gay man. How does one balance their professional and personal lives?
3. Considering the many dimensions of Welles’s personal and professional life, what is your understanding of the ethics of being a diplomat for the United States of America? How have they changed since the World War II era?