

Leadership Exploration Essay

If I were to define leadership, I would describe it as the skill of leading others in an inspiring way. I believe that to lead others efficiently, the person being led and the person leading must benefit from the experience. I believe there are no specific traits that a person must have in order to be a good leader. Although generally, a good leader could have traits such as the ability to be understanding, humble, honest, and a good communicator. These skills are important because I am hoping to be in a business-related career field where I am in a leadership position. To have a good relationship with the individuals you lead, you need mutual respect and understanding for one another. These skills are versatile and are used in any aspect of life, both personal and professional.

I have had several leadership experiences that have shaped me into the leader I am today. I was involved in Student Government and the National Honor Society from early junior high to high school. I held the title and honor of President of the National Honor Society during my senior year of high school. During this role, I was expected to execute large group meetings, plan volunteer opportunities, and organize philanthropic projects in the community. This experience taught me how to lead large group meetings effectively and apply feedback from others. This experience matters to my leadership competency growth because I was able to learn from mistakes through trial and error. It also taught me the ability to change and adapt to situations. Another experience that I have had was leading Wednesday night school at my church, Our Saviors Lutheran Church. I have been a leader for children's ministry for many years and have also participated in various day camps hosted at the church. During this experience, I worked alongside children of all ages and built meaningful relationships with them. This experience helped me grow in the leadership competency because it taught me how to work with children,

which I would argue can be challenging at times. I learned that some of the children needed different approaches to learn, and I believe this can also be applied to working with people of all ages.

In the future, I would like to continue engaging in opportunities that broaden my leadership skills. An idea that interested me was teaching a Junior Achievement course at a school. Junior Achievement teaches children in schools about basic financials and how to manage money. Junior Achievement would also be related closely to my field of study. Financial education is essential for our youth because money plays a large part in life. Being able to teach and lead meaningful conversations with children is an experience that would allow both the students and me to grow. Another opportunity to strengthen my leadership competency skills would be to join a business-related club on campus. Some organizations that have interested me are the Student Executive Team and the Entrepreneur Club. Either of these organizations would be an appropriate choice for me because they would push me out of my comfort zone, and I have also wanted to join a business club on campus. It would get me more involved on campus and inspire me while being around other students with similar career goals.

Overall, I believe it is crucial to have a solid foundation of leadership skills and to continue broadening them throughout your life. Being a good leader can mean many things, from being a good role model to someone or leading your employers and creating a positive work environment. Identifying ways I have engaged as a leader in Student Council, National Honor Society, and Wednesday school helps me evaluate my current leadership skills and growth. This evaluation also assists me in finding opportunities to continue my growth, such as Junior Achievement, Student Executive Team, and Entrepreneur Club. I am passionate about becoming a better leader, as it is going to play a large part in my future in business.