

Profile of Leaders

Ten characteristics of people who possess leadership abilities:

1. THEY HAVE VISION:

- ◆ They are aware of what's happening around them. They have long antennas and are very receptive to new ideas. They are aware of what people need. They see the world in terms of what it might become, rather than in the way it is. "They have their eyes on the stars and their feet on the ground." They are constantly searching for a better way, a different way, avoiding the "Calf Paths" of the mind, the routines that trap mans creativeness.

2. THEY HAVE FAITH IN PEOPLES' ABILITY TO GROW:

- ◆ They have a high estimate of human potential. They believe in all kinds of people. They have a high tolerance for ambiguity. They respect and encourage uniqueness in the individual. They have plus-plus personalities. They believe in themselves and they have faith in others. They operate with a belief that "I can and so can you." Thomas Harris, MD refers to it as a life position that responds to the world with "I'm OK - you're OK behavior.
- ◆ In contrast to the plus-plus, "I'm OK - You're OK" life position we find others that manifest a plus-minus, or "You're not OK" life style. An authoritarian, close minded "If you want it done right do it yourself" stance.
- ◆ In others a position of personal despair and hopelessness is manifested through a minus-plus or "I'm not OK" style of behavior.
- ◆ The final and most devastating posture is the minus-minus or "I'm not OK - You're not OK" view of reality. Manifesting itself in complete despair in self and society. Often it is a rationalization of personal inadequacies and a projection of these inadequacies to others and to society in general.
- ◆ The plus-plus, "I'm OK - You're OK" personality sees people not only as they are but in terms of what they might become. They sense the potential in man. Gooth said "Treat a man as he is and you diminish him, treat him as he may become, you enable him." The great teachers of history have taught to the man or adult in the child overlooking present immaturity's in developing tomorrow's man.

3. THEY ARE OPTIMISTIC:

- ◆ They see the world as if it were the morning not the evening. They are seldom pessimistic or defeatist. They believe in the ultimate triumph of the human spirit. The story might be apocryphal, but Howard Hughes is reported to have given Trans World Airlines its name when it was a one pilot - one plane operation.
- ◆ The genius of the future is that man invests most of it. The degree to which this is true increases the impact of optimism and hope for a better tomorrow.

4. THEY MAKE A GIFT OF THEMSELVES:

- ◆ They are involved. They are not indifferent to the needs of the society. They are dedicated to goals of education and give of themselves freely to achieve these goals. They believe in what they are doing and what we are doing. They strive for excellence.

5. THEY ARE IMAGINATIVE:

- ◆ They draw heavily on their own imagination and on the imagination of others. They refuse to be compliant. They never feel that they have “arrived”. What they do today reminds them of what must be done tomorrow. The solution of one problem generates ideas for solutions to other problems.

6. THEY ARE GOOD LISTENERS:

- ◆ They have the ability to read people. They have empathy and reciprocity. They are perceptive people. There is an old adage: “God gave us two ears and one mouth and he intended that they be used in that proportion.”

7. THEY ARE NOT JEALOUS PEOPLE:

- ◆ They surround themselves with capable people. They enjoy other’s achievements. They bask in reflective glory, enjoying their part in the success of others.

8. THEY ARE ACCESSIBLE:

- ◆ They have time for people. They don’t hide behind desks, secretaries, and formalities. They are aware of non-verbal communications - The Silent Language.

9. They are more interested in WHAT is right rather than WHO is right. They are open minded.

10. THEY ARE SECURE PEOPLE:

- ◆ They are not easily threatened. They are not egg-walkers. They are not marionettes. They have convictions and the courage to express and work for these convictions.

(Re-printed from Education II - The Social Imperative, Authors: Kerensky and O’Melby)

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- Choose one famous Leader
- Research the Individual and find *PROOF* they possess each of the “Ten Characteristics of Leaders.”
- CREATIVELY present your chosen leader to our group.
- Show a photo of the leader you chose.

My chosen leader is: _____.

Does he/ she have vision?

Proof:

Does he/she have faith in peoples' ability to grow?

Proof:

Is he/ she optimistic?

Proof:

Does he/ she make a gift of themselves?

Proof:

Is he/ she imaginative?

Proof:

Is he/ she a good listener?

Proof:

Is he/ she NOT a jealous person?
Proof:

Is he/ she accessible?
Proof:

Is he/ she interested in WHAT is right, not WHO is right?
Proof:

Is he/ she a secure person?
Proof: