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FYEX 100

Leadership Essay

I Lead My Own Way

Over the few weeks that I have been in my First Year Honors Seminar course I realized who I am and how I can grow as a leader. Being a leader is more than being the person at the front of the wolf pack, it’s about just taking part and being an asset to the wolf pack. I will grow in my leadership abilities by recognizing what kind of characteristics I inhabit and use those to my advantage. I can become the best leader by valuing the type of person I am, using my strengths to pursue my goals, and knowing the importance of working in a team.

Over the course of this class we took a few tests to find out what kind of people we are labeled as, depending on our answers to a certain questionnaire. By taking these questionnaires I found out that I am an extrovert and an obliger. An extrovert is a person who is very outgoing, has good communication skills, works well with people, and can think fast. In the excerpt of *Quiet* it described how extroverts seem to dominate our world because they are so prevalent in the way that they are so outspoken. As an extrovert I can use my outspokenness to encourage other people to voice their own opinions. My next questionnaire labeled me as an obliger. An obliger is a person who needs external forces to be motivated rather than be internally motivated. In other words, an obliger is a people pleaser. Accomplishing things at the expense of others wishes. Being an obliger was the topic of discussion in Gretchen Rubin’s podcast “Meet a Work Deadline, but Can’t Go Running on Your Own? You May be an Obliger”. Gretchen discussed how it can be very challenging but not impossible to achieve success as an obliger. For me to be able to succeed I need to put myself in certain situations that can make me flourish in the right way for me. By utilizing my abilities as an extrovert and an obliger I can show myself off with my best assets forward.

The next way that will contribute to me growing as a leader would be to utilize my strengths to help me accomplish some of the very important or even daily tasks at hand. In Tom Rath’s book *Strengths Based Leadership*, he described how all the people that everyone perceives as great leaders typically have very different leadership styles. There were multiple studies done that proved that every leader is different and not one style of leading would work for every situation. I am a strong believer that I can be a leader like no other because everyone basically is. I have many strengths that will help me as a leader just listing a few: critical thinking, interpersonal communication skills, organization, etc. I can use my critical thinking skills as a way to think outside the box and bring new criteria or ideas to the table. I have great interpersonal communication skills and this will help my leadership skills when I pursue my career field of child psychology. I need to be able to listen and give good, well thought out responses or feedback. Lastly my organization skills will help me be a leader because it will help me plan out and be an efficient worker in every aspect of my life. Be an effective leader means using the things that you are great at to set you apart from others.

Lastly, knowing the importance of teamwork can make you thrive as a leader. Teamwork helps tasks get done faster and more efficiently but this only happens when every person in that team is put in a role that lets his/her strengths shine. Our in-class activity really showed how certain strengths played roles in the success of the group. Some of my group members were quiet but had a lot of information about everyday items that I never guessed would be used for survival. So I used some of my strengths to play a role in my group of getting those people to speak up and voice what they were thinking. I believe that teamwork can make or break a task. How well a team works together really shows in the outcome because sometimes even after a project is terminated you come home with more knowledge than what you started with. Being a leader is all about being able to obtain new information and find ways to use it, so being in a group can help you build as a leader.

In conclusion, there are many ways to grow as a leader but for me valuing the type of person I am, using my strengths to pursue my goals, and knowing the importance of working in a team is what will help me be successful. I may not be the leader in the wolf pack but I am a key asset to what it will accomplish.