



# Qualities of a Good Leader

According to Merriam-Webster Inc., a leader is defined as “a person who has commanding authority or influence”. This definition, however, is very vague as well as void of the important individuality that each person brings to the concept of leadership. It is for this reason that the qualities of a “good leader” are difficult to define. Each individual comes to the table with different leadership styles, experiences, and philosophies. What is important is that each leader takes the time to evaluate not only hir/her/his own leadership strengths and weaknesses, but also the needs and dynamics of the group with which they will be working. The exercises here will help you to determine what leadership skills are important to you and what kind of leader you may be or want to become.

## Who are the Leaders In Your Life?

Often times the most influential leaders in our lives are not famous or well known. They are ordinary people who do extraordinary things (no matter how small) and make an indelible impact in our lives. These are the true people in our lives that we look up to. Take some time to think about these phenomenal people. *Why do you look up to them? What qualities do they exhibit that make them invaluable leaders in your life? How do you want to emulate them?* Thinking through this activity will allow you to develop a list of leadership qualities that you feel are important to possess to be a “good leader”.

Please list three people you look up to:

Person #1:  
What qualities do they exhibit that you admire?

Person #2:  
What qualities do they exhibit that you admire?

Person #3:  
What qualities do they exhibit that you admire?

## Questions to Ponder....

What do you think are your best leadership qualities?

When being led, what style of leadership do you respond to best?

How can you incorporate these two important answers to understand how best to lead or be led by your group members?

What are the leadership styles/qualities of other people in your group?

What leadership styles/qualities are missing within your group?

If you are the group leader, how can you work to incorporate those missing styles to ensure the group is working as effectively as possible?

How can you intentionally evaluate the effectiveness of your leadership style with your group members?

“When the best leader’s work is done the people say, ‘We did it ourselves’”.

-- Lao Tzu



# Quick Tips

Here is a list of potentially successful leadership traits. It is nearly impossible for any leader to represent all of these qualities in their work, however you may use the list as a guide to those qualities seen as successful and important for strong leadership. It is also important to recognize that in and of themselves, these traits do not make a leader.

Rather it is how you shape and develop these qualities that allow you to successfully lead others. As you read the list think about which you feel you excel at and which you feel you might need to work on. Use this as you continue to develop your leadership capabilities.

- Creativity
- Ambition
- Strong Values
- Cleverness
- Motivation
- Trustworthiness
- Imagination
- Empathy
- Sense of Humor
- Open-Mindedness
- Persistence
- Confidence
- Organization
- Calmness
- Intelligence
- Intuition
- Adaptability
- Likeability
- Dedication
- Tolerance
- Loyalty
- Goal-Oriented
- Passion
- Commitment
- Others?

*Pieces of Leadership*  
brochures are available on  
the following topics:

Budgeting  
Communication  
Conflict Resolution  
Delegation  
Facilitation  
Goal Setting  
Group Dynamics  
Ice Breakers/Team Builders  
Mission Statements  
Motivation  
Officer Transition  
Peer Supervision  
Program Planning  
Qualities of a Good Leader  
Running a Good Meeting  
Stress Management  
Time Management  
Wellness

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*The information provided in this brochure  
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Vangundy, Arthur, Ed. 101 Great Games and  
Activities. 1998.*

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For more information on the topics  
listed above or to access the  
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*Tips for the Wesleyan Leader*

Qualities of a Good Leader

*Building your Leadership  
one piece at a time...*