Madie Hoffman

FYEX

Leadership Essay

10-03-15

My Leadership

 Anyone can be a leader if they want to be a leader. As I have grown throughout high school, and have had the opportunity to read and study this unit I have started to understand what it takes to be a good leader. I was Head Officer for my high school’s Art Club and during that year I began to understand why I was a good leader. I believe that a good leader lets their followers have their own free range with their ideas and the leader is there to guide them if they get off task or need help. A good leader needs to be able to see when his or her followers need help and when they need to solve problems on their own. When I was Head Officer I would let the students discuss their ideas and I would be a type of mediator that made sure everything was in order. I would put in my ideas when I saw them struggling to come to an agreement, but I made sure that the majority of the students were in favor of the ideas.

 I was most definitely not born a leader. When I was a little girl I was the shyest thing someone could have ever met. I didn’t talk all that much and I didn’t know how to ask for help. I have definitely grown into the leader I am today. I have learned that everyone has an opinion and that their opinion matters. Also, a leader needs to know that they cannot control everything. I will admit that I was a bit of a control freak when I was younger and can be one on some occasions, however I have learned to adapt; I believe that a good leader needs to be adaptable. If a leader cannot roll with the punches that are thrown at them then they shouldn’t be allowed to lead other people. A leader needs to show his or her employees that he or she can handle any situation given to them. An adaptable leader gives their followers hope that the leader is reliable for the future. The leader also needs to know when to ask for help from his or her followers. The leader has their own strengths and the followers have their own strengths, so they need to work together as a group and play off each other’s strengths to solve a problem. The leader needs to know when they need to turn to his or her teammates for help.

 My strengths as a leader have changed over time. During the latter years of high school I began to understand my strengths as a leader and why they would help me later in my life. Taking the strengths finder in the book I agree with a few of the traits the book categorized me under. According to the book I am a maximizer, relator and strategic type of person. I think these strengths are very accurate when I think about how I interact with other people in face-to-face interactions and group interactions. A maximizer is someone who focuses “on strengths as a way to stimulate personal and group excellence” (Rath, 203). I believe being a maximizer is a good trait to have for a leader because they focus on the strengths of the group to accomplish tasks. Also, when something needs to get accomplished the group doesn’t rely on one person to get it done, but use each other’s strengths to get it done. The book also defines a relator as someone who will “enjoy close relationships with others…” and “find[s] deep satisfaction in working hard with friends to achieve a goal” (Rath, 211). This strength complements the first strength very well. Both deal with how a close group of people rely on each other’s strengths to get the job done. With these strengths I plan on working in groups more in these next few years and hopefully helping others understand that they can be leaders too. Finally, the book states that another one of my strengths is the strategic strength. The book describes this strength as being able to “create alternate ways to proceed” (Rath, 229). I agree with this trait because I can adapt easily to different situations and I can find different solution to the same situation. As stated before a good leader needs to be adaptable to give hope to their follower’s futures. Using these strengths I will be able to adjust to college life and be able to get ready for the adult working world. Knowing my strengths I will be able to understand myself and how I should lead people and how I can be of help to make them better leaders. During my years at Minnesota State University, Mankato I plan on using these strengths to become a better leader. I want to fully understand how I can get my strengths to benefit other people, and I want to see how these strengths will help me accomplish my goal in the adult world after I graduate.

 I lean a little bit more toward being an introvert than an extrovert, but I see myself more as an ambivert. An ambivert is someone that is equal part extrovert and introvert. I feel, as an ambivert, I am able to relate to both types of people. Being able to relate to both types of people, I feel that I will and have an opportunity to show a group of different types of people how to work together. I will be able to connect with more people. During these years at Mankato I want to be able to bring different people from different backgrounds together and show them that they can all work together and become a productive group of people. I don’t just want to be able to grow as a leader here at Mankato, I also want to help others grow to be better leaders or followers if they choose. I am excited to see where I go these next few years at Mankato, and I am excited to see what other strengths and friends I acquire during those years.

Works Cited

Rath, T., & Conchie, B. (2008). Strengths based leadership: Great leaders, teams, and why people follow (1st ed., Vol. 1). New York, New York: Gallup Press.