



Demonstrating Leadership

Materials:

- Worksheet

Brainstorm: Who is a leader that you admire? Why? What characteristics do they possess that make them a good leader?

Discuss: With the class, discuss some of the leaders that students identify. There might be some disagreement. Although someone might not be well liked, they might be perceived as a good leader by some people.. People might have characteristics that make them a good leader in some situations, but not in others. We are only making a list of leaders and their characteristics. We are not judging their effectiveness as a leader.

Dive in! There are four types of leadership that can be identified in the world: autocratic, democratic, laissez-faire, and transformational. Given these titles, The link above describes the four types of leadership and provides examples of each. To summarize, an autocratic leader takes control in a top-down type of role. He/she makes all the decisions for the group. A democratic leader gathers input from everyone on the team before making a decision. In the end, they are still responsible for the decisions, but everyone has a stake in the process. A laissez-faire leader empowers each team member to take responsibility for their own actions. They are available for feedback but they trust each person to have the skill to complete their assigned tasks. Finally, a transformational leader unifies the group behind a common goal. Each member understands how their work will affect the overall vision of the group.

Do you know what kind of leader you are? Take the quiz [here](#).

Activity

The teacher can choose between 2 activities.

The teacher starts by dividing the group into two teams and positioning them on either side of the room. Next, the teacher will give the students instructions such as “Line up according to birth dates,” or “Arrange yourselves into alphabetical order according to first or last names.” The students must then complete the activity without speaking. It is up to the students to get creative with how they will communicate with each other. When the team(s) are finished, you



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can analyze how each group completed the task. What type of leadership evolved and seemed to work in this situation?

OR

Ask students to work individually, in pairs, or in groups to identify a famous leader, who can be real or fictional. You can provide a list of famous people for your students, or you can ask them to brainstorm. Some ideas might be the President, famous entrepreneurs, the principal of the school, or someone from a movie or series. Spongebob is often a TV show students are familiar with, and they will analyze Mr. Krabs. What type of leader is this person, or do they show more than one type of leadership? Ask the students to provide concrete examples of times when the character of a person showed this characteristic of leadership. For example, students often suggest Mr. Krabs is autocratic because he doesn't ask for his employees' opinions; he just tells them what to do. Teachers can give students a choice in how to complete this assignment - it can be an essay, Google slides, or a poster.

Reflect: There are different types of situations in which different types of leadership styles might be necessary. For each type of leadership, name a situation that occurs around the school where that particular style might work best. For example, in what situation around school is there a need for democratic leadership? Perhaps in a classroom where we are making a set of classroom rules.

Extend and Enrich: How can we improve our leadership skills? Have students brainstorm activities they can get involved in that will help them build this skill set. Or you can ask them to interview leaders in their school or community and learn how these individuals developed their leadership skills.

For Further Study

- <https://www.uagc.edu/blog/4-leadership-styles-in-business>
- <https://classroom.synonym.com/leadership-activities-high-school-classrooms-7855904.html>
- <https://www.forbes.com/sites/ashiraprossack1/2021/06/29/how-to-unlock-your-full-leadership-potential/?sh=7e9869f544ac>
- <https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/10-common-leadership-styles>



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Professional Development:

List some examples of leadership roles that you have taken on in the school or the larger community. What leadership skills have you developed as a result of teaching? There are numerous professional development opportunities available for staff members to grow these skills.

- <https://www.edutopia.org/blog/teacher-leadership-as-professional-development-mariam-rizvi>
- <https://fortune.com/education/articles/here-are-8-free-online-leadership-courses-hosted-by-top-universities/>
- <https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/10-common-leadership-styles>