

Personal Leadership Paper

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In my life, the influences that I based my actions and thought process on came from the efforts of the multiple supportive mentors I have met and had the joy to spend time. As I reflect on these choices and experiences, my sense of leadership and responsibility have drastically changed since I began my ventures into the outside world. Combined with the challenges that I have faced throughout these ventures, I noticed that my mindset on how leadership is displayed altered the way I came about certain solutions and choices. Me and the leadership qualities have had quite a journey so far and I can tell that I will continue to change and grow in my leadership as I venture higher into my adulthood.

Through the help of certain mentors in my life, my thoughts on leadership was varied and diverse since I saw many perspectives on how leadership is conveyed. Through the eyes of my very first manager at my first retail job, I observed that leadership took place in a more aggressive and direct approach, where feelings and emotions were put to the backburner in exchange for progress and effort in order to run a business. It took time for me to fully understand why things were being said and why specific choices were denied, but that was due to lack of experience and an unfamiliar environment. Here I learned that leadership can be shown through several types of actions as well. Things such as taking on a disgruntled customer yourself with the quick decision making and critical thinking aspects in mind, to taking notice of employees lacking in certain areas and addressing it with an effort to understand the reasoning behind it. Flexibility and patience were the main skills I learned during this job, with the main aspects being shown through the actions of my manager. It astounded me how easy it looked to manage a specific situation with no solution, only to watch how she produced multiple. While the experience, I had there was far from pleasant towards the latter half of my tenure there, the

skills and knowledge I gained as a worker and person significantly changed my way of thinking moving forward.

My mother was the first person to make sure I was knowledgeable and informed in the ways of the real world. As a child, it was important for me to understand how to oversee situations of multiple calibers, and she made it clear that I needed to be considerate and mindful of how to react and respond to an individual's situation. To think and "read the room," and to understand how to navigate a conversation to turn in my favor. I looked at her leadership as a calm wave in an ocean. Always pushing to the shore, but never overtaking the shore. In a sense, the adaptability and awareness that she expressed and taught left an impression on me through my childhood and adulthood. When it came to my own challenges taking face, I only had to remember her lessons and teachings to help my firsthand experiences in creating solutions. Her leadership spanned through my family rather than a business itself. She made sure to attempt to keep everyone together, even in troublesome circumstances, and to always find opportunities in any situation. These lessons are things that I still continue to learn as I grow in an everchanging society.

My leadership stems from the understanding of others and the values that I behold and display. In my current position as an assistant manager at a retail store, I have to realize everyone's situations, and to combine those situations with my values to create an understanding yet integral solution. Since being at this job, I have had multiple challenges come my way, and every time I gain a point in understanding how to identify and adapt to these challenges. I also grow to try to impel growth and opportunity to the individuals around me. This can be coworkers below my position or above my position. I solely believe that as a leader, I must be able to propel my peers and associates to success while I create the foundation for the success in order to have a

successful business. The challenges that I have faced are obstacles that have to be addressed in order to develop new perspectives in life. It is essential for a team to be able to trust and rely on their leader to lead them to the right path, and through consideration, communication, and the right attitude, success can be ensured.

I do realize that I have tons of areas where I need to reflect and grow more. Areas such as critical feedback when I do something potentially wrong and taking people's feelings to heart. Feedback is a huge problem for me because I grew up being a perfectionist, and I strive on trying not to create hassles or extra work for anyone. This turns into me doing entirely too much and overworking myself or unintentionally creating problems for me or my team. When I get talked to about said situations, I tend to be in my feelings because of what was said, not realizing that every one of these times is a learning experience waiting to be discovered. This also plays in tandem with how I delegate tasks to my fellow associates. Whether it is because of someone potentially not doing a job as quick or as efficiently as me, or I figure that I am not doing enough, delegating tasks is important in the balancing of objectives and goals, as well as the empowerment of my team members. Only time will tell with how I react to these situations in the future, but I know that each time will at least turn me in the right direction of a better leader and person.

