

**Learning and Actions**

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Leadership Ethics

02/24/2024

## **Introduction**

The purpose of this paper is to review the information covered in this course. This paper will be broken down into two sections. In the first section, I will go through the chapters and discuss the concepts that stuck out to me the most. All of the topics will not be included in this paper to give space to talk about the topics that I felt I connected to the most. The second part of the paper will be an action plan for my future and how I will use the information that I have learned to assist me in my career.

## **Leadership Ethics**

At the beginning of the semester, we got the chance to dive into Kohlberg's stages of moral development. His stages of development consist of six stages that are grouped into three levels (Pre-Conventional, Conventional, and Post-Conventional). As a leader, it is very important to not only understand who you are but also where you are in your moral thinking. Being able to lead begins with being able to understand who you are as a person and as a leader. I believe being able to understand what levels and stages you are at but it will give you a better understanding of others as well. I found this information very interesting and helpful for me when it comes to understanding moral reasoning with my students what levels they are on and how to approach them.

After understanding and learning about Kohlberg's stages of moral development the next thing that stuck out to me the most was understanding the idea of a mensch and how it applies to leadership. This part of the course I feel ties in with the other concepts we learned about over this 6-week course. A mensch is a term that originated from German/Yiddish culture, In German culture it means a human being or a person while in Yiddish culture it means a person of

integrity, decency, and honor (Astraed, 2023). It is an honor and of what I believe highest praise to be called a mensch leader. Being a Mensch does not only classify you as being a good leader but also just a genuinely good person. There are a lot of different traits and aspects a person has to have to be considered a Mensch. For instance, they have to be compassionate, show gratitude, be vulnerable, kind, thoughtful and so much more (The Brandeis School). These traits are traits any person would also want in a leader. Also, traits I strive to present in myself every day and that others should do as well. These are also great ways and a good start to being able to create a space where people feel safe and comfortable around you which can aid in building relationships with employees and/or coworkers.

### **Action Plan**

This portion of this paper will cover my action plan on how I will incorporate what I have learned as tools to use in my career. What I have learned throughout this course has opened my eyes to ways I can become a better leader, coworker, and employee. These things can be used not only in my professional setting but also life and my personal life. For this portion of the paper, I will focus on how I can add these to my life and work. I am currently a Leadership major but my goal is to become a teacher. I work as a paraprofessional with Duplin County Public Schools. Although I am not in a leadership position, I believe that these skills can shape me and prepare me to be in a position of leadership one day.

I plan to take what I have learned throughout this course and put it to the test to allow it to flow naturally. I feel I am a natural-born leader but there are things I can do better in my leading that will help get my message across. For starters, fully understanding myself and who I am as a person and a leader is my first plan of action. I believe that a leader cannot lead a group of people and understand them if they do not first understand themselves. I plan to use the

example of a Mensch leader as my inspiration and model for the type of person and leader I would like to be. Working within myself while building these characteristics and being aware of them can help me mold myself into the type of leader I would want as a leader. As I currently work with children, I believe that this is the perfect place to start because they require a lot of patience, compassion, and empathy. We are all human and although you may already exhibit these traits, it is important to make sure you are putting them into action at all times.

Once I have established who I am as a person and a leader my next step would be to use things like Kohlberg's stages of moral reasoning to help me better understand the people and children that I work with daily. I feel that understanding where people are at what levels and stages allows there to be a clearer way to approach them and the situations with them as a leader. We are not all on the same level of understanding and moral reasoning so as a leader it is important not only to understand that but to be able to identify where people are and how to meet them there. One of the biggest things in education is being able to meet children where they are and breaking things down to them from their level. We are not one-size-fits-all.

In conclusion, I have learned a lot during this course and I am excited to put these things that stood out to me most into action. There are many steps to becoming a leader. It is not an easy task you must be willing to digger deeper within yourself continue to do the work and lead by an example you have set for yourself. Also, you have to keep in mind the people you are leading and understand them. We are not one-size-fits-all so you can not be a one-size-fits-all leader.

## References

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