

ENDINGS

1



Leadership 

ENDINGS

Mind

Body

Heart

Soul

“Earn your leadership every day.”

Michael Jordan

Reflection

If people see you as a leader and you see yourself as a leader, does it make sense that you would have to earn leadership over and over again? What if leaders lose the trust of those who look up to them? Can they get it back again?

Action

Find a partner and each make a collage using words and pictures that shows your ideas about earning leadership. Trade them. In what ways are they similar? In what ways are they different?

ENDINGS

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“He who has great power should use it lightly.”

Seneca

Reflection

What are some of the differences between leading with a light touch or with a heavy hand? Can you think of an example of each? Do you think one way is better than the other?

Action

Divide a piece of paper into two columns. In one write the tools—including aspects of personality—that people might use to lead with a light touch. In the other, list some that might be used to lead with a heavy hand.

ENDINGS

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“I hate the word failure, but I love the word mistake.”

Lisa Gersh

Reflection

People often say that we learn from our mistakes. Can we learn from our failures? Do you think that there's a difference between the two? Can we learn from success?

Action

Across the top of a piece of paper write m-i-s-t-a-k-e. Write something that you could learn from a mistake that begins with each of those letters. If you want, use it to have a conversation about mistakes and failures with someone you trust.

ENDINGS

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“It is better to lead from behind and to put others in front, especially when you celebrate victory when nice things occur. You take the front line when there is danger. Then people will appreciate your leadership. ”

Nelson Mandela

Reflection

What are some of the things that you have to leave behind to be a good leader? Is safety—physical or emotional—among them? What about praise?

Action

Write a short speech for a leader who has led a group through a difficult time to a victory. In the speech, does the leader take credit or praise the group? Change the speech so that the leader says the opposite. Did you enjoy writing one more than

UNCERTAINTY

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Leadership 

UNCERTAINTY

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“I have learned over the years that when one’s mind is made up, this diminishes fear; knowing what must be done does away with fear.”

Rosa Parks

Reflection

What about determination lessens uncertainty and fear? What are some factors that lead people to finally decide that an idea or a belief about what must be done is correct?

Action

On the left side of a paper write “fear,” and on the right side, write “certainty.” Along a line connecting the two, write words that would help a person move from feeling afraid to feeling sure.

UNCERTAINTY

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Leadership 

UNCERTAINTY

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“If you want to know what a man’s like, take a look at how he treat his inferiors, not his equals.”

Sirius Black

Reflection

Have you ever been disappointed in people because of the way they treated people with less power? If people treat those that are not their equals badly, what does that say about them? What do you learn if they treat them well?

Action

Imagine that you are a teacher with a class of very difficult students. Make a list of things that you could do or say to treat them well so that they would see you as a leader? What might help you to keep going even if you didn’t get results quickly? questions? Write these down. Are there any themes?

UNCERTAINTY

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UNCERTAINTY

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“The only safe ship in a storm is leadership.”

Faye Wattleton

Reflection

How would leadership provide safety in times of trouble or upheaval? What does it take for leadership to make it through difficult times?

Action

Create an image of a ship on turbulent waters. In the water, write some of the threats to leadership. On the ship write words that would help the ship get through the storm safely.

UNCERTAINTY

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Leadership



UNCERTAINTY

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“A leader is best when people barely know he exists, when his work is done, his aim fulfilled, they will say: we did it ourselves.”

Lao Tzu

Reflection

Do you think it could be confusing for people if they don't really know that their leader exists? Do you think that leaders find followers or that followers find leaders? Are there other ways that they could come together?

Action

Write a short scene for a play about a group of people trying to find a leader. Do they look outside the group or find someone among themselves? How did you decide which scenario to write about?

BEGINNINGS

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Leadership



BEGINNINGS

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“Don’t be your ‘first, worst’ critic.”

Virginia Rometty

Reflection

Do you think leaders are harder on themselves than other people? If so, how would you understand that? Do you think that they might also be their “first, best” supporter? Why or why not?

Action

Divide a paper into two columns. At the top of one write “critical.” At the top of the other write “supportive.” In one column, list words that come in a critical voice that could be changed to a supportive voice. For example, “stubborn” could be changed to “determined.”

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Leadership 

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“He who has never learned to obey cannot be a good commander.”

Aristotle

Reflection

Do you think it's true that you have to be able to take instructions before you can learn to give them? Think of a situation in which you were willing to follow instructions and one in which you objected—even if you didn't say anything. Was there something about the leader that made the difference, or was it something else?

Action

In one minute, write down all the situations that might make someone want to disobey or go against a leader. What can be learned from your list?

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“There are three essentials to leadership: humility, clarity, and courage.”

Fuchan Yuan

Reflection

How do each of these qualities contribute to good leadership? If you could have only two in a leader, which one would you eliminate? What if you could have only one? Would you substitute any other qualities for any of these three?

Action

Write each of the three words above on the points of a triangle. Draw three lines out from each of those words. On each line, write a word that would help a leader maintain or grow that quality.

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Leadership



BEGINNINGS

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“Hold yourself responsible for a higher standard than anybody expects of you. Never excuse yourself.”

Henry Ward Beecher

Reflection

Do you agree that leaders have to be held to a higher standard? What are the arguments for and against that idea?

Action

Organize a debate. Ask one team to argue as forcefully as possible in support of Beecher's idea. Ask the other to argue that Beecher is misguided. Did either team convince the other to change its position?

RENEWAL

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Leadership



RENEWAL

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“To handle yourself, use your head; to handle others, use your heart.”

Eleanor Roosevelt

Reflection

Do you think that good leadership requires knowledge and empathy, or only one or the other? Do you know people who have tried to lead using only their heads or only their hearts? Have they been successful?

Action

With a partner, identify a piece of information that could make a difference for a cause you believe in—a way to reduce greenhouse gases, research on how to increase graduation rates, a new vaccine, etc. Write three or four sentences about a strategy

A HOME WITHIN get people excited about this new

RENEWAL

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Leadership 

RENEWAL

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“We never know how high we are/Till we are
called to rise/And then, if we are true to plan/Our
statures touch the skies.”

Emily Dickinson

Reflection

Do you think that people can “grow into themselves,” when they are called upon to lead in some small or large way? If their leadership is no longer needed, do they go back to being as they were before, or does the growth stay with them?

Action

Use images—drawing, collage, photos, etc.— to illustrate this poem. What colors did you use? What do you think made you pick those colors?

RENEWAL

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RENEWAL

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“A leader is a dealer in hope.”

Napoleon Bonaparte

Reflection

How do leaders create hope in those that look up to them? What do you think leaders can do if they begin to feel hopeless?

Action

With a partner, draw a map showing a path that could take you from where you are to a destination that you would both like to visit. What are some of the things that could make your trip difficult? Draw them on the map. Do any of them make you want to give up? Can you find ways around or over some of the obstacles? What helped you to keep going, if you did?

RENEWAL

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Leadership 

RENEWAL

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“A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don’t necessarily want to go, but ought to be.”

Rosalyn Carter

Reflection

Is it up to the leader to decide what is good for people? What if the group doesn’t agree with the leader’s vision? How could a conflict like that be resolved?

Action

Write out l-e-a-d-e-r-s-h-i-p along the top of a piece of paper. Write a quality beginning with each of those letters that could help to create a great leader.