

The Leaders in My Life

"The most dangerous leadership myth is that leaders are born - that there is a genetic factor to leadership. This myth asserts that people simply either have certain charismatic qualities or not. That's nonsense; in fact, the opposite is true. Leaders are made rather than born."

Warren G. Bennis, Ph.D., author of more than 25 books on leadership and founder of the University of Southern California Leadership Institute

"It's far more impressive when others discover your good qualities without your help."

Judith Martin, novelist and journalist better known as Miss Manners

Everyone can be a leader. That may seem hard to believe, especially if you feel being a leader doesn't come easy for you. But every person has a combination of different personal characteristics, or qualities of leadership, that can make it possible to take the lead - or learn how. Some people think all it takes is a single characteristic, like self-confidence, to be a leader, but one characteristic doesn't make you a leader. Successful leaders use different combinations of leadership qualities in various ways, leading by words, by attitude and by action.

Identifying well known people who demonstrate effective leadership qualities helps you relate to how others interpret those qualities. Read each of the following qualities and fill in the blanks **(IN RED TEXT COLOR)** with the name of a **well-known person (famous person)** who shows that quality, but try and name a different person for each quality. If you get stuck, think about people locally or nationally you've read about in newspapers, magazines or online, or heard about on radio or TV recently.

DOES THE RIGHT THING: _____

Leaders who do the right thing know how they feel about issues and take the high road, even in difficult situations and when others aren't watching. They are ethical, act with integrity, have good morals, and know how to stand up for their beliefs.

HAS A SENSE OF DIRECTION _____

Leaders with a sense of direction have a "built-in GPS system." They know how to move from Point A to Point B, even when things get in the way. Their vision extends beyond the present day and beyond themselves; they recognize that setting goals and being purposeful keeps them and others motivated on the journey.

RESPECTS POWER _____

Leaders who respect power recognize their responsibility in using their power. They do not use their power carelessly or irresponsibly or to take advantage of situations.

THINKS CREATIVELY _____

Leaders who think creatively know how to look at opportunities and problems in new ways or differently from others around them. They see the possibility that exists and ask, "Why not?"

EMBRACES DIFFERENCES _____

Leaders who embrace differences recognize how diverse our world is. They recognize that people with different beliefs, backgrounds, and expectations often need to work together. They strive to promote understanding from all sides and bring dissimilar groups together to explore new directions.

ACTS WITH PASSION _____

Leaders who act with passion inspire others. They communicate their excitement about a task in both subtle and obvious ways.

MANAGES UNEXPECTED SITUATIONS _____

Leaders who manage unexpected situations know that success requires more than good planning. They think before acting and try to consider the outcome of options, even when time is limited.

MODELS HUMILITY _____

Leaders who model humility (or modesty) act to make a difference. They don't call attention to their accomplishments and talents. They don't brag, seek praise for achievements, or have any hidden motives.

Leadership happens all the time; every person has the potential to be a leader. For each of the following leadership qualities, write the name of **SOMEONE YOU KNOW PERSONALLY** who demonstrates it. Choose a different individual for each quality, even though one person in your life may possess more than one of these qualities. Please type the person's name in **RED**.

Does the Right Thing:

Has a Sense of Direction:

Respects Power:

Thinks Creatively:

Embraces Differences:

Acts with Passion:

Manages Unexpected Situations:

Models Humility: