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My Leadership Philosophy

Over the past few years, my personal leadership philosophy has significantly changed. When I joined the public leadership scholars program last year, the classes I have taken since then have given me a much better understanding of leadership. After learning about different leadership styles, theories, and examples, I have finally been able to shape my own perspective on what I think makes an effective leader. I believe a great leader should possess good communication skills, determination, and confidence.

The first step in being a successful leader is being able to communicate well with those around you. This means a variety of things. To be a good communicator, one must be open with their followers. Moreover, it is important to keep subordinates in the loop of what is going on. By using transparency and staying honest with followers, the leader has the ability to form trust in their relationships with them. Another thing that goes along with communication is being empathic. In order to lead others, it is essential to understand what the people want so that the leader is able to do the best they can to fulfil everyone’s needs. This concept goes along with the idea that even though it is very important as a leader to be able to speak well, it is just as important to be able to listen.

The particular leader that comes to mind when it comes to communication skills is Oprah Winfrey. Winfrey has always emphasized how important listening is when communicating. She even suggests that being a good listener is the same, if not more, important than being a good speaker (“4 Great Communicators and What They’ve Taught Us”). This makes her leadership effective because she comes off as caring and supportive to those that she helps. I aim to emulate this trait because as a leader I would like to create a good relationship between myself and my followers by establishing trust through open communication.

Another vital characteristic of an effective leader is determination. A big part of producing results and success as a leader is getting things done. In order to do this, a leader must be highly motivated and interested in their work. To get things done, it is helpful for leaders to be organized and have a goal as well as a plan for the group as a whole. It is one thing to be able to motivate yourself as a leader, however it is also necessary to be able to inspire and motivate others as well.

Stephen Hawking is a great example of a famous leader who is extremely motivated. Despite his diagnosis with ALS, he refused to make excuses for his disabilities and has been able to achieve plentiful success. Not only is he well known for his groundbreaking work on quantum physics, but also for his incredible determination in overcoming his disability (10 of the Most Inspiring Leaders of All Time”). I strive to stay as motivated as possible because I know that in order to be effective, plans and goals have to be carried out efficiently in order to bring success.

Lastly, the final essential trait to have as a leader is confidence. When an individual is confident, they come across as knowing what they’re doing which instills a sense of trust in their followers. Leaders that are charismatic are able to work well with people. Someone that gets along with people easily becomes relatable and well-liked. With this sense of trust and reliability, leaders can develop a relationship with their followers which can result in effective leadership.

The 44th president, Barack Obama, is known for his charisma. Besides his ability to deliver words diligently, he also has, “unusually strong character and good temperament” (Bennis). These characteristics that Obama has shown allows America to trust and have confidence in him. I admire this trait and would like to practice confidence when in my own leadership positions because I think having positive energy has a specific effect on people that allows the leader to become more effective.

Overall, my personal leadership philosophy revolves around good communication, determination, and confidence. Continuing with my leadership classes, I am able to continue to learn and create what I think the most effective leader should be. Throughout my life, I have been able to enter more and more leadership positions and as long as I continue to practice the skills I have learned, I believe I will find great success in my future leadership endeavors.

Works Cited

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