

Subject: RE: Leadership

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Author: Michael Malone

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Subject: Leadership

1. Assess your role within the cohort. Did you choose this role or was this role ascribed to you? Explain.

I would say that my role in this cohort was chosen by me; I see myself as being a listener, a thinker and a unifier.

2. Describe your leadership qualities.

I think my strong suits are problem solving, communicating (within small groups), and getting people to come together for a common goal. Believe it or not but I have trouble public speaking. It may seem like I do it easy but for the first minute or so I'm a nervous wreck, but once I talk for a while and I feel I have the audience's attention I'm become okay. I see myself as a negotiator, someone who listens to what many people are saying and decides the best course of action. I'm not a strict leader because I think leading is a collaborative process; I'm a person who wants the people following me to like me and respect me. I have no problem with conflict and at times I like it because it keeps me sharp. I'm a person that takes chances myself but struggles when those decisions could affect many. I relate my leadership qualities to me on the basketball court. I have no problem being the focus guy, the scorer and the face of the team. But I would much rather be the second man, the assist guy, the rebound and defense guy, the guy who holds the team together.

3. Assess what leadership roles you have and haven't taken within the cohort. Why did you make the choices you did to lead or not lead?

I would say when it came to small groups I would take the leadership role sometimes by default. I never just came in and took over, and if there was someone in the group that showed signs that they were going to step up then I would let them have the responsibility. Many times people would nominate me to lead or suggest I lead so I would. For most of the two years I've pretty much sat

back and observed the scene.

4. Assess the possibilities for leadership in the cohort environment; how will you choose to respond to these possibilities? What risks are there?

I don't think that there is much leadership needed this semester. I think the direction we're heading has already been set and we'll be graduating in a matter of months. I think now we all just need to be there for each other so that we all reach the finish line together. We've lost enough students over these past two years, and I'm ready to help anyone to ensure that we all make it.

David,

You have always struck me as very deep and we have barely scratched the surface with you! It has been my experience that the quiet listeners become natural leaders-when they are good and ready. I see you and Angela out doing social work internationally and representing the United States in a huge way. I am so glad that you found each other. You compliment each others personalities and the two of you together will do awesome things in this field once you find your niche. I always know that you are there supporting all of us in whatever assignment we have been given. I hope you know that I will be here for you if you ever need the same.

Linda

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