



EXPLORING LEADERSHIP

Use quotes to explain ideas about leadership



OBJECTIVES

- Students will examine their own ideas on leadership.
- Students will consider other's perspectives on leadership.
- Students will communicate leadership characteristics that are most important to them.

MATERIALS

- [Leadership Quotes](#) (printed to place around the room)
- Poster paper or whiteboard

TIME

- 30 min

LESSON INTRO

Leadership is a big topic! This lesson gets students starting to articulate their ideas about what leadership means to them. In the process, they'll hear new and divergent ideas from their peers.

Understanding our collective idea of leadership is a vital place to begin. Analyzing our own ideas and experiences with leadership helps us frame our way forward. When we have a clear idea of where we are headed in developing our leadership skills as individuals and groups, we will make great progress toward realizing our leadership goals.

If you're starting a series of lessons on leadership with this lesson, consider choosing a guiding question from the list in the Social Responsibility Roundtable lesson.

LESSON STEP BY STEP

1. Display the quotes around the room.
2. Tell students they will be walking around the room silently reading the quotes and taking notes. As they circulate, students should consider the question: *Which quote best defines leadership? Why?*
3. Allow time for silent walking, reading, and reflection. Students should be prepared to share out once they return to their seats.
4. Students can take pictures of the quote they pick, or—once all students have finished, gather the quotes, and lay them out in the student circle.
5. Ask students to read their chosen quote to the group and explain why that quote stood out to them. Some students may be willing to share a personal story about why they picked that quote.



6. Consider using the stems below to elicit the logic behind the students' choice of language:

"I picked this quote because _____."

"In my opinion, this quote communicates _____ when it says _____."

7. Allow time for all students to share.
8. Follow up the student discussion by asking students to summarize their ideas into one word. You are looking to gather a list of leadership characteristics based on students' ideas.

Use this stem, if necessary, "Leaders are _____."

9. Create a "Leaders are..." list from student-generated characteristics. You are able to use this list as a reference throughout subsequent sessions.

VARIATIONS

1. Have students Pair-Share their ideas about leadership rather than sharing out to the entire group.
2. Instead of discussing and sharing, students can draw/sketch pictorial representations of their chosen quote to promote thinking and conversation in a new way.
3. Choose different quotes that speak to issues currently facing your class/school/community. This way, you can easily change the activity to focus on themes or values other than leadership such as integrity, generosity, etc...

FACILITATOR TIPS AND NOTES

If you're using this lessons as a jumping off place, keep the quotes and "Leaders Are..." list posted. Refer back to these ideas as you progress through the unit.

REFLECTION & WRAP UP

1. Invite students to Pair-Share about someone they know who they view as a leader.

NOTES

- **Educational Standards:** CASEL: Self-Awareness, CASEL: Social-Awareness, P21: Communication and Collaboration, P21: Leadership and Responsibility, CCRS:SL1 Have Diverse Conversations