

Leadership Characteristics



People have discussed throughout history whether leaders are made or born. In the next few days, we are going to discuss five traits or qualities that people look for in a leader. The following five characteristics are in every leader the world has ever seen and will ever know.

The five leadership traits/leadership characteristics are:

1. **Ambitious**
2. **Visionary**
3. **Competent**
4. **Charismatic**
5. **Intelligent**

It is important for a leader to exhibit these characteristics. Simply possessing each one is not enough; you have to show it in a way that people notice. People want to see that you demonstrate these leadership qualities and will not just assume that you have them.

With your group, come up with definitions of these characteristics **in your own words**. Do not use your dictionaries! If you do not know, guess.

Ambitious: _____

Visionary: _____

Competent: _____

Charismatic: _____

Intelligent: _____

Ambitious

Read the following definition.

Ambitious (*am·bi·tious*:) (Adjective). Having or showing a strong desire and determination to succeed.

Write down five synonyms of **ambition** 1) _____, 2) _____
3) _____ 4) _____ 5) _____

What is ambitious in your native language? _____

Ambition is an important characteristic of a leader because it is the foundation of their desire to gain power. At some point in their lives, all leaders decide they want to have power and influence over others. Leaders are highly motivated to succeed and to communicate their success to others. Whether they are leaders of a country, a school, a community, or a class, leaders are people who have the desire to direct the path of future events and inspire others to succeed.

What is something you are ambitious about in your life?

Is ambition good or bad, why? _____

Visionary

Read the following definition:

Visionary: (*vi-sion-ary*) adjective : a person who is looking forward toward the future and has ideas of how to change it.

What is visionary in your native language? _____

Write down five synonyms of visionary. 1) _____, 2) _____
3) _____ 4) _____ 5) _____

The whole purpose of leadership is figuring out where to go from where you are now. A person may know where they want their group or country to go, but they must communicate their vision clearly and actively to others in order to convince people to follow them.

People need to know that a leader has a strong vision for the future and a strong plan for going forward. Good leaders share their goals and visions for the future in a variety of ways. For example, modern leaders communicate their ideas through speeches, articles, meetings, TV and radio shows, and the Internet.

Visionary leaders are the builders of the future; they work creatively with imagination, insight, and bravery. A visionary leader finds the best people and brings them together around a common goal. The visionary is always looking for change and improvement. They are social reformers and change agents, seeing the big picture and thinking strategically

What are you a visionary about in your life?

Why is being a visionary an important quality in a leader?

Competent

Read the following definition.

Competent (*com·pe·tent*) adjective: having enough skill or ability to do something well.

What is competent in your native language? _____

Write down five synonyms of competent 1) _____, 2) _____
3) _____ 4) _____ 5) _____

People want to follow someone who is competent. This doesn't mean a leader needs to be an expert in every area, but they need to be able to demonstrate competency.

What is a competent leader and what qualities make an individual a competent leader? A competent leader has the ability to make good decisions. This is important not only for us as individuals but also for those in positions of leaders whether be in a school, community or nation. Leaders make decisions that affect peoples' lives and how people think of the leader. Those in positions of being a leader make decisions that can impact the success of many people and their future.

For a leader to demonstrate that they are competent, it isn't enough to just avoid displaying incompetency. People want to know that their leader can complete a job well and that the leader is the best person to accomplish the goal.

Why is competency an important quality in a leader?

What is one way you have demonstrated competency?

Charismatic

Read the following definition.

Charismatic (*cha·ris·matic*) adjective: having the ability to inspire enthusiasm and interest in others.

What is charismatic in your native language? _____

Write down five synonyms of charismatic, or charisma. 1) _____, 2) _____
3) _____ 4) _____ 5) _____

We all need to be inspired in order to accomplish goals. People want to be inspired because inspiration fuels our desire to reach for our dreams. It enables us to become someone we want to be.

Good leaders have the ability to inspire others. This ability to make others feel excited and motivated is called "charisma." Charismatic leaders communicate their clearly and with passion. They tell people about their visions for the world in a way that makes people want to help them and work for them.

Charismatic people help people see beyond their narrow focus by talking about how their lives connect to the "big picture." In other words, charismatic leaders help people find meaning in their lives through their words and actions. To inspire people in this way, one must be able to communicate their ideas and get people excited to follow you. Charismatic leaders will motivate their followers to have the same dreams and desires as their leader.

Who is a person that inspires you? Why?

Why is charisma an important quality in a leader?

When have you been inspired in your life?

Intelligent

Read the following definition.

Intelligent: (Adjective) the ability to learn, understand and deal with new or difficult situations.

What is intelligent in your native language? _____

Write down five synonyms of intelligent. 1) _____, 2) _____
3) _____ 4) _____ 5) _____

There are thousands of definitions of intelligence. Simply put, however, intelligence is the ability to learn about, learn from, understand, and interact with one's environment. Intelligence is made up of a number of specific skills, which include these:

- Adaptability to a new environment or to changes in the current environment
- Capacity for knowledge and the ability to learn it
- Ability to solve problems
- Being able to understand relationships with other people
- Ability to evaluate and judge
- Ability to create original and productive thought

Name_____ Date_____ Team_____ Class_____

Additional abilities might be added to this list, but they would all be abilities that allow a person to learn about, learn from, understand, and interact with the environment. Environment in this definition doesn't mean the environment of the earth, such as the desert, the mountains, etc., although it can mean that kind of environment. It has a wider meaning that includes a person's immediate surroundings, including the people around him or her. Environment in this case can also be something as small as a family, the workplace, or a classroom. **An intelligent person is a good learner.**

What is intelligence?

Why is intelligence an important quality in a leader?

Name _____ Date _____ Team _____ Class _____

Characteristics of Good and Bad Leaders



Translate the following adjectives into your native language and write whether you think the word describes a **good leader** or a **bad leader**. If you think the word could describe both good and bad leaders, write **"both."**

Adjective	Translation	Good Leader, Bad Leader, or Both?
1. strong		
2. loyal		
3. selfish		
4. visionary		
5. brave		
6. intelligent		
7. dishonest		
8. aggressive		
9. hard-working		

10. fair		
11. unfair		
12. trustworthy		
13. violent		
14. intolerant		
15. tolerant		
16. ambitious		
17. calm		
18. emotional		
19. cold-hearted		
20. ignorant		
21. fearless		
22. honest		
23. inspiring		
24. competent		
25. manipulative		

Name _____

Date _____

Class _____



1. Using your leadership packet determine which of these characteristics do you possess or have? Explain

2. What characteristic do you feel you need to develop? Why?

3. Do you feel that people are born to lead or can people learn to lead?
WHY

4. Rank the leadership characteristics in order of importance.

Most Important

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

5. Explain your rankings

In your group rank the characteristics of Leadership. Be ready to explain to the class