

Leadership Portfolio

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Personal Statement on Leadership

Leadership is the ability to motivate and inspire others to work toward accomplishing tasks and goals, although it goes beyond that for me. An effective leader is an individual who has humility, charisma, compassion, enthusiasm, authenticity, assertiveness, and trustworthiness. Great leaders set realistic goals, provide structure, and create an inclusive environment. As a leader, inspiring and motivating others to be confident in themselves while providing them with the necessary support and resources to succeed embodies leadership.

In my journey, I have come to understand that true leadership is not about having power, but about empowering others. It is about creating a vision that resonates with people and guiding them toward its realization. I believe a leader's strength lies in their ability to listen, adapt, and make decisions that will benefit the group as a whole. My experiences have taught me that leadership is a continuous learning process that requires self-reflection, openness to feedback, and a willingness to grow. I have learned that effective leaders acknowledge their mistakes, learn from them, and use these lessons to improve themselves and their teams.

Different situations may require different leadership styles, and a great leader knows how to adapt their approach to meet the needs of their team and the challenges they may face. Flexibility, combined with a strong ethical foundation, is what I strive for in my leadership role. Creating an environment where individuals feel valued, motivated, and empowered to reach their full potential is my top priority.

Compilation of Leadership Experiences

Student Organization: Lower Columbia College Rotaract Club

Date: Ongoing

Description: As a Lower Columbia College Rotaract Club member, I work with local Rotaract Clubs to facilitate community needs. We organize many community events, school events, and are sponsoring a family for Christmas.

Community Service Activity: Cowlitz Youth Soccer Association, Treasurer

Date: 2020-2024

Description: Cowlitz Youth Soccer Association provides children in the community with opportunities to build friendships, be active, learn teamwork skills, and play soccer at a recreational level. As the Treasurer, I was responsible for maintaining and reconciling bank accounts, recording expenses, preparing an annual budget, preparing monthly financial reports, and managing all financial transactions.

Mentorship Program: Washington State Opportunity Scholarship Mentor

Date: Ongoing

Description: As a mentor to college students who receive the Washington State Opportunity Scholarship, I provide students with the resources and support they need to be successful in their college journey.

Compilation of Reflective Essays on My Leadership Experiences

As a student at Lower Columbia College, we are often assigned group projects. During the Fall 2024 term, I was assigned to a group of four people, and we were tasked with completing a project that involved writing a plan of action and recording a team video. One of the members was not communicating with us, which delayed our start and created frustration within the group. We found out the missing team member would not be a part of the group. Recognizing the need for direction, I took the initiative to lead our team and maintained a positive mindset as we moved forward.

This experience significantly increased my knowledge of leadership. I learned that effective leadership often emerges in challenging situations and requires adaptability. By stepping up when our group faced communication issues, I realized that leadership is not just about being in charge, but about guiding a team through obstacles and keeping everyone motivated. As I went through this experience, I noticed my view of leadership had changed. Previously, I had thought of leadership as a formal role where the boss is superior in a sense. Now I understand that leadership is a transformative process that can be assumed by anyone willing to take responsibility. I also learned that maintaining team morale is crucial, especially when facing challenges.

The key takeaway from this experience was the importance of positive communication in leadership. By focusing on our strengths and keeping the team's spirits high, we not only completed the project but also formed lasting friendships. This aligns with the self-assessment exercises we did this term, which emphasized the role of emotional intelligence in effective leadership.

In conclusion, this group project taught me that leadership is about taking action, not holding a position. It is about stepping up when needed, boosting team morale, and guiding a team toward a common goal, even in the event of losing a team member.

Essay on Leadership Growth

I have always thought of myself as an effective leader, but through the OLTM program this term, I have learned that being an effective leader is an ongoing process. Through Dubrin's (2022) self-assessments and skill-building exercises, I have taken a deeper look into my skills and abilities as a leader and grown significantly.

My definition of leadership has evolved dramatically over the course of the OLTM program. Initially, I viewed leadership as a position of authority, but now I understand it as a dynamic process that involves influencing others, fostering collaboration, and driving positive change. This change in perspective has been transformative and enabled me to identify leadership opportunities in a variety of contexts beyond just formal positions. The program has increased my self-awareness and understanding of others in relation to leadership. For most of my adult life, I have been introverted and shied away from group engagements. However, when I started my college journey three years ago, I decided to step out of my comfort zone by engaging in a school club and volunteering for an organization. I also became a mentor to other college students, which has improved my understanding of leadership and allowed me to share my experiences while supporting their growth and development. These experiences have taught me the importance of active listening, empathy, and adaptability in leadership.

I have demonstrated collaborative skills through various group projects this term. I have learned to balance my eagerness to take charge with the need to involve and empower team members. This growth is evident in how I now handle challenging situations, choosing to focus on a supportive team environment rather than simply directing tasks. The OLTM program has built my theoretical and practical knowledge about leadership. I now understand that effective leadership encompasses qualities like humility, empathy, trust, and the ability to build

relationships. This knowledge has helped me approach leadership situations with a more holistic perspective.

Understanding leadership as a process rather than a position has been a key revelation. I have learned that leadership opportunities exist in everyday interactions and that anyone can demonstrate leadership behaviors, even without the title. This understanding encourages me to seek out and create leadership opportunities in various aspects of my life. To enhance my leadership development, I have sought opportunities both within and outside the academic setting. My self-confidence has grown significantly and I have become comfortable with speaking in class and offering insights. This small change represents a step in my leadership journey, showing my growing confidence and willingness to contribute to group dynamics.

In conclusion, this term in the OLTM program has been transformative in reshaping my understanding of leadership and my approach to it. I have grown from an introverted individual to someone who actively seeks out leadership opportunities and values collaborative success. This journey of growth has provided me with essential skills and insights that I am excited to apply in my future personal and professional pursuits.

References

DuBrin, A.J. (2022). *Leadership: Research findings, practice, and skills* (10th ed.). Cengage Learning.

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