Dare to Lead

Being a leader is not something that comes easily to everyone, for some, it’s something you have to work at. Personally, being a leader has always been something I have been good at, and enjoy doing. If you’re not a natural leader, don’t fear, everyone can become a leader in different ways. There are so many different categories you can be placed in as a leader, which is something I have learned throughout the leadership unit in this class. Through various activities I have found that I am an authentic leader, extroverted leader, and upholder.

An authentic leader is someone that leads with everything they have in them including their head and their heart. They use their own life experiences to help make them a better leader. According to an article from Harvard Business Review, Discovering Your Authentic Leadership, “Authentic leaders demonstrate a passion for their purpose, practice their values consistently, and lead with their hearts as well as their heads. They establish long-term, meaningful relationships and have the self-discipline to get results,” (Cain, 2013). I believe that I am an authentic leader because I lead with passion. I tend to not just lead anything, I want to be a leader for something that is important for me. For example, I like to lead at my church because all the kids I lead there are very important to me. Although I already feel like I am an authentic leader in that aspect, I would like to become more of an authentic leader by using more of my life experiences to help me lead as well. Someone in my life that does a good job of that is my dad. My dad is an authentic leader because he grew up in a rough neighborhood and didn’t he didn’t have it easy. He used this experience as motivation to become the great leader he is today, at his job, and at home. I hope to one day lead in the same way my dad does.

As an authentic leader, I am super passionate about the leading I do, which ties into me being an extroverted leader as well. When in a group setting, I love putting my opinion out there for the group to hear and elaborate on. If I have an idea that I think is really great, I am not afraid to tell everyone I think it’s a great idea that we should use, which, like a lot of things, has it’s pros and cons.. It’s good because my ideas are heard by the whole group, but it can also be bad because sometimes my voice might push over others. For example, during the Lost at Sea activity, I would often times voice my opinion quickly and so would the other extroverts in my group, but then someone in my group who was a little quieter eventually chimed in and gave an idea that was more logical than the rest of ours, which shows that I need to make an effort to hear everyone’s ideas when I am doing group work. According to, Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking, sometimes extroverts are so quick to give their opinions and ideas that they don’t always give the best, most thought out ideas, which is another negative of being an extrovert. In the future, I want to work on thinking more before speaking, and making sure I give everyone a chance to voice their opinions in group settings.

When you think of an extrovert, you may think of someone who is super outgoing and crazy, but that’s not always the case. Although I do see myself as outgoing, I am not very crazy or rebellious, according to my tendency. After taking a quiz to see what tendency I am, I found that I am an upholder. According to Gretchen Rubin, an upholder is someone who is a planner and self-motivated. I completely agree with these results because I have always been a huge planner for most things that I do. Even when I make plans with friends, I need to have a set plan ahead of time and we have to stick to it. I also have always had self-motivation when it comes to getting things done that I really want to be done. For example, when I tell myself I am going to finish a paper on a certain night, I make sure that I finish that paper that night. If I don’t meet my own goals/plans it’s something that weighs on my mind for a long time and I become a nuisance to myself. Sometimes this tendency makes working on group projects very difficult because I have to depend on others to get work done and I would rather get it all done myself. I think that I am 100% an upholder because I completely relate to most of the upholder tendencies that Gretchen Rubin discussed in her podcast on upholders. I also don’t feel like I relate to any of the other tendencies very much because of my super structured lifestyle. I hope that one day I can be a little more lenient with making plans and group work because it will make my social and school life a lot easier.

Being an authentic and extroverted leader and an upholder has helped mold me into the person that I am today. Without these three things, I wouldn’t be the same passionate, outgoing, and organized leader that I am today. I dream to continue to lead the way that I have been, but with a little more knowledge on how others may lead and how I can be better. I want to use my life experiences to lead, listen to other’s ideas more, and become more lenient with the way I live my life.

Works Cited

Cain, Susan. Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking. N.p.: Broadway, 2013. Print.

"A Close Look at the Upholder Personality; Are You Like Gretchen and Hermione?" Gretchen Rubin. N.p., n.d. Web.

George, Bill, Peter Sims, Andrew N. McLean, and Diana Mayer. "Discovering Your Authentic Leadership." (n.d.): n. pag. Web