



Unit I: Understanding Leadership

Skill 2: Distinguishing Between Born vs. Created

Activity B: Learning To Lead

Activity Skills:

Small group discussion, brainstorming.

Leadership Skills:

Investigating ways that people can improve their leadership skills.

Suggested Level:

Beginning

Time:

20-30 minutes

Supplies needed:

- Blank paper/cards for students to list their leadership skills.
- Pens or pencils.

Do Ahead:

N/A

Source:

Developed by:
Rory Klick
UW Extension

Notes:**BACKGROUND:**

Expand on the key skills needed by leaders, and how people learn these skills. Discuss methods for learning – classes, training programs, experience, etc. Introduce the concept of “competence,” a core set of skills that effective leaders need to have.

WHAT TO DO:

This activity may be done in one larger group if numbers are small, or in small groups of 3-5 people. Ask students to discuss the skills brainstormed as a whole group (above) and then list any education or training methods that address these skills.

Ask them to consider non-traditional ways to learn – outside of the classroom or a structured training program. What kinds of life experiences have they had, or do they know about, that contribute to improved leadership competency? Allow 10+ minutes for small groups to discuss this and then 3 minutes to share back with whole group.

If time allows, take another 5+ minutes and ask each student to list the individual skills that they think they need to improve the most to strengthen their leadership abilities.

TALK IT OVER:**Reflect:**

- Where do people go to learn their key leadership abilities and skills?
- Do people go to school to “learn leadership?” Where else do people gain these skills?
- Can you think of a non-traditional learning strategy to improve leadership?

Apply:

- Can you identify your training needs based on what skills you want to develop? How?
- What kinds of learning scenarios did you learn about in this discussion that might work for you?
- Next time you are thinking about leaders, how would this exercise change your perceptions?

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Notes:	<p>BEYOND THE BOX:</p> <p><i>Optional Homework:</i></p> <p>Ask students to develop a personal leadership training agenda for themselves. What key skills do they think they need to work on, and what types of educational programs or situations could support development of these skills?</p> <p><i>Resources And Web Links:</i></p>
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