**Personal Growth (Grade 11)**

**Activity II: Characteristics of a Good Leader**

**Proactive vs. Reactive**
The exceptional leader is always thinking three steps ahead. Working to master his/her own environment with the goal of avoiding problems before they arise.

**Flexible/Adaptable**
A leader is able to handle him/herself in unexpected or uncomfortable situations.  An effective leader will adapt to new surroundings and situations, doing his/her best to adjust, even if he/she did not have a back-up plan.

**A Good Communicator**
As a leader, one must listen more than he/she speaks. Leaders must be willing to work to understand the needs and wants of others. A good leader asks many questions, considers all options, hears all concerns, and leads in the right direction.

**Respectful**
Respect is reciprocal. Leader who treat others with respect will ultimately earn the respect of others.

**Quiet Confidence**
A leader will be sure of him/herself without having to constantly vocalize his/her reasoning, as if he/she were looking for validation. A good leader is humble, doesn’t brag about personal accomplishments, but is, quietly happy with his/her performance.

**Enthusiastic**
Excitement is contagious. When a leader is motivated and excited about the project, others will be more inclined to follow.

**Trusting**
A leader oversees a group of people through tasks. A leader cannot do everything on his/her own and cannot watch everyone he/she oversees at all times. Therefore, it is important for the leader to trust other people to accomplish their personal tasks, follow the directions they were given, and maintain professional behavior.

**Resourceful**
A good leader knows how to locate and is willing to use the resources available to him/her. If the answer is unknown to something, a leader discovers the answer by asking questions. A leader must also create access to information.

**Rewarding**
An exceptional leader will recognize the efforts of others and will reinforce positive behavior. A good leader recognizes that these rewards, recognitions, and support results in more productive work and effort from others.
 **Well Educated**
Having knowledge in his/her field helps the leader in his/her role, allowing him/her to better assist others. In addition, understanding policies, laws, and group dynamics is an essential tool when in the leadership position.

**Open-Minded**
A leader will consider all ideas from those who offer and will be willing to change any policy or way of doing things that is out-dated. A leader will consider different points of view to determine if change will benefit the group or team.

**Interested in Feedback**
A leader will look for information on his/her performance. Leaders will continuously ask themselves how they can improve. Feedback from others gives them another perspective on how he/she is doing with his/her job or task. Leaders appreciate honest feedback.

**Evaluative**
Evaluation of events and programs is essential for an organization/group to improve and progress. An exceptional leader will constantly evaluate and change programs and policies that are not working.

**Organized**
Organization, both physical and mental, is important for leaders. Being able to locate items in an instant reduces time-waste. Keeping items organized for others, as well, allows them to clearly understand the task(s) the leader assigns. The leader’s organization, for the most part, keeps everyone prepared for upcoming events.

**Consistent**
Confidence and respect cannot be attained without your leadership being consistent. People must have confidence that their opinions and thoughts will be heard and taken into consideration. Directions, policies, and timelines must be communicated consistently to all members.
 **Delegator**
An exceptional leader realizes that he/she cannot accomplish everything without help. A leader will be knowledgeable about the strengths, weaknesses, and interests of others and will give out tasks that match people’s strengths.

**Initiative**
A leader should work to be the motivator, an initiator. He/she must be a key element in the planning and implementing of new ideas, programs, policies, events, etc.

**Student Directions A: Read, share, reflect**

Learning Target: I can recognize the qualities of a good leader.

* **For each quality, describe a person you know who displays that characteristic and when they’ve displayed it.**
* **Share with the group or with someone else in your advisory.**

**Reflection:**

1. Were you surprised about any of their responses? Explain.
2. Were you surprised about your own responses? Explain.
3. Of the qualities described, which is your strongest? Explain why you think this is your strongest.
4. Of the qualities described, which do you think you need to work on the most?

**Student Directions B**: Read, act, reflect

Learning Target: I can recognize the qualities of a good leader.

* Cut the qualities into strips, fold the strips, and place them into a container.
* Each person (or pair of people) draws a strip of paper and tries to act out that quality.
* Other students guess what quality the student(s) is/are acting out.

Reflection:

1. Was it difficult to act out these qualities? Explain why or why not.
2. Were some qualities more difficult to act out than others? Explain why (or why not).
3. Was it difficult to guess what qualities were being acted out? Why or why not?
4. Were some qualities more difficult to guess than others? Explain why you think this happened.