

SSP100.001 *Democracy Inaction*

Classroom Discussion on Leadership: Oct. 11, 2006

What follows emerged in our class discussion and some observations by President Phil Glotzbach, Marie Glotzbach, and Linda Toohey (Exec. VP, Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce) to the peer mentors this week. These are only suggestions and together they are neither exclusive nor proprietary (that is, you need not cite this page if you wish to draw upon its content). You are welcome to craft your own definition of leadership.

Leadership as a process – a leader needs to create ...

- a set of values
- a context and a vision – how to improve things, or where you want to go
- buy-in, or followership via rhetoric and persuasion
- a plan – how to stage things
- an execution – carry out the plan

Qualities of effective leadership – an effective leader needs to be good at ...

- listening to and identifying the will of the community
- accepting all ideas as valid (not that all ideas are good)
- persuasion, not coercion
- authenticity, with values that are consistent and don't change
- collaboration – the leader should be follower-centered
- understanding past lessons, present realities, and future circumstances
- committing to the growth of every individual in the group
- credibility, by doing what you'll say you'll do
- serving as a resource, being useful to the group
- self-confidence
- capacity – the ability to read people, manage time well, take risks, sympathize, and bring intelligence to bear on the problem
- achievement – fueled by aggressiveness and passion
- responsibility – through dedication, commitment, expressing confidentiality and dependability
- participation – by being engaged, creative, compatible, and visible
- accountability – a willingness to be honest and demonstrate integrity by being willing to own mistakes
- status – by earning and establishing status within the community