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## **What is Leadership?**

Leadership is the ability to lead and guide others. Leadership is the key to success in any project. There can be one leader or many leaders in a project. Leaders can either be nominated and elected by others or appointed by someone. A leader needs to be able to inspire others to achieve their common goal. If a leader can not do this he will be ineffective. Leaders need the skill of communication. They need this because if you can not communicate what needs to happen to achieve the goal then no actions will occur. This will cause the project to be a fail. Leaders also need to be able to listen to those he is leading. When you are open to listening you will learn more and have more ideas on how to achieve success. Leaders need to learn from failures and learn how to make them better for the next time. They need to be open to others and their opinions. They also need to be caring and compassionate for those he is leading.

Over my life there have been many people that have been leader in a positive way in my life. An example of a leader who positively influenced my life was my first baseball coach. He picked me on the team despite me being much younger than the rest of the team. No matter how much the kids on the team did not like having a younger kid on the team he defended me and kept me on the team. He pushed me to the best of my ability and showed me my potential. He inspired me to look for much more in my life and achieve greatness. This led to me being a great player that year. My coaches confidence in my and ability to lead me made me the best player I could be that year.

When I think of leaders who have affected thousands and millions of people I think of George Washington. When our country was in doubt and in the darkest days, George Washington emerged as a great leader. He led thousands of men into battle against a highly organized British army. In order for the Americans to win the war George Washington would have to bring men from all over the country and make them one. This would take much communication and leadership on his part. George Washington through his ability to inspire and push his men to the best of their abilities was able to surprise the British and win the war. After the war George Washington was elected the first president of the United States and brought the country together as one. This was all due to the consistent and persistent leadership of George Washington.

Leadership is not only about those leading but those following. There are no leaders without followers. Followers determine whether or not the leader is successful or not. Leadership is a quality that is difficult to achieve, but without leadership it would be nearly impossible for a group of people to achieve their goal. That is why when choosing your leader choose them wisely and confident in their ability to communicate and lead others to success.