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## **What Leadership Means To Me**

Leadership is defined as “a process by which a person influences others to accomplish an objective and directs the organization in a way that makes it more coherent and cohesive.”

A good leader is one who is always three steps ahead of the others. He looks out for the people before himself. John C. Maxwell said “a good leader is one who takes a little more than his share of the blame and a little less than his share of the credit.” Leaders are kind, motivating, knowledgeable, and always concerned for the other person. They build excellence and accomplish this by first building character. Understandably, they need to be trusted, and prove themselves trustworthy so that people will look up to and admire them. One who strives to be a good leader has to be honest, inspiring, intelligent, and stand firm for what he believes, not backing down. Truly committed leaders strive to know more and study continually to improve their skills, not sitting down and watching life go by. I believe that a true leader becomes experienced by studying and following the mistakes and successes of others. Putting himself out there, in the real world, he is able to relate to others in their daily lives. While there is no such thing as a perfect leader, the job should still be done to the best of his ability.

Today we are led by our president and his advisors. He is the leader of the United States and deserves to be honored and respected, even if we do not all agree with the choices he has made and the things he does. Leading is a big responsibility not to be taken lightly. This is why it is necessary for the president, when he is being sworn in, to take an oath on the Bible, vowing to lead the nation to the best of his ability. Our Founding Fathers realized this enormous responsibility when they carefully elected the first president George Washington and his cabinet members. The Constitution was written by Thomas Jefferson as a guide to ruling the country and leading the people wisely, and is still used today. One can't simply go out in the world and demand that the people follow him, this is not true leadership. As E.M. Kelly said: “Remember the difference between a boss and a leader. A boss says ‘Go!’ A leader says ‘Let’s Go’.” Leading is setting an example for others so that they admire and want to follow you. In the game follow the leader, the person playing the leader makes the decisions that the others then follow. In order for the others to follow, you have to always be thinking ahead of what you are going to do: a strong vision for the future is necessary. How can the others follow the leader if the leader doesn't even know what he is going to do? A good leader takes the time to communicate with his followers and listen to what they have to say. He will inspire others to act and desire to achieve higher goals, by showing them what needs to be done.

I agree with John Quincy Adams when he said “If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader.”