TRANSITION SKILLS

LESSON 8-16 ▲ IDENTIFYING LEADERSHIP TRAITS

**LEARNING GOALS/OUTCOMES**

* Define the term “leadership” in their own words.
* Identify leadership qualities in themselves (to use in school and community development).
* Define leadership in their own words.
* Describe personal leadership skills.

**MATERIALS NEEDED**

* **Student Handouts:**
* Journal Page
* **3 x 5 Notecards**
* **Chart paper or white board**
* **Markers**

**CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES**

1. **Hand out 3 X 5 cards** and ask each student to write down at least one thing they think is a leadership trait in people.
2. **Ask the students to get into groups of three or four.** The task for the group is to identify three leadership traits from the ones that the individuals wrote down originally or the group generates. . When the group has identified the three agreed upon traits, they need to write the leadership traits on the easel paper or board. If the small group’s word is already on the paper, they need to decide on a new word to put up in place of the already used word. (The end result should be a list of 15 to 20 leadership traits.)
3. **When all groups have contributed, have the entire class review the list of traits that were generated.** If any are missing that you think are particularly important, add your ideas as the advisor.
4. **Share that leaders are found in our families, schools and communities.** Identify a person in your (advisor’s) life who has been an influential and has demonstrated leadership traits on the list and share a description of that person with the students. Then, give the small group time to talk about people in their lives who they view as leaders and have them identify traits that make them leaders. Allow them a few minutes before having them share as a large group.
5. **Ask the small groups to share out who they identified as leaders from the people they know personally.** As there is time, lead a discussion about what they have learning about leadership, potentially about themselves as leaders, and how they think leadership impacts the decision to go to college.
   * Make sure that you close with the concepts that:
   * Everyone has the potential for leadership
   * Becoming a leader begins with each of them.
   * Leaders are in our families, schools, and communities
6. **Have students reflect on what they’ve learned by answering the following questions on their *Journal Page*:**

* Identify a leadership skill that you demonstrate. How you are continuing to develop and use this attribute?

**STUDENT PRODUCTS**

* **Completed *Journal Page***

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND OTHER INFORMATION**

* **SUPPLEMENTAL FACILITATOR NOTES**

This is an introductory lesson on leadership and how it influences a student’s decision to go to college and chances for getting into college. The lesson can be used at the middle school and/or at upper high school grades with additional examples/support in the discussion. Make sure that when students leave the lesson they understand that ***EVERY STUDENT HAS LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL.***

Resource for leadership traits <http://www.ala.org/nmrt/initiatives/ladders/traits/traits>

* **ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES**

Create a list of leadership traits (use this link or other sources) and hand out to students. Have each student circle any of the characteristics they identify with.

Ask the students to think about a time when they personally identified with one or more of the traits on the list. Ask them to get comfortable – perhaps close their eyes to visualize that time.

* Recall what the circumstances were – where you were, who was there, what was the time of year, etc.
* How did they feel about the situation? If others were around, what did they do?
* Think about the decisions you made and the impact it had on the circumstance.

Use this information to lead a discussion on why being a leader is important.

TRANSITION SKILLS

LESSON 8-16 STUDENT HANDOUT

JOURNAL PAGE

**DATE:**

**Lesson 8-16 | *Identifying Leadership Traits***

***Q1:*** Identify a leadership skill that you demonstrate. How you are continuing to develop and use this attribute?

***Answers:***