



Dear Students,

This month's topic is '**Leadership.**' Leadership is motivating and guiding others toward the achievement of a goal.

Why?

Leadership is one of the [top skills](#) that employers look for when they are hiring new recruits. Being a leader helps you develop management and problem-solving skills, build self-confidence and improve your ability to communicate with others.

How?

There are many ways to be a leader, and college is a great time to develop your leadership skills.

Read this e-newsletter to learn about:

- how to find leadership opportunities;
- leadership traits and styles;
- interview questions related to leadership; and
- resources for learning from leaders.

"Leadership is the self-confidence of working with people smarter than you."

-Azim Premji, Chairman, Wipro

Becoming a Leader

There are many ways to become a leader. Consider what you excel at, what you would like to improve, and/or what kind of leader you want to be.

Some examples:

- Take a lead on a class project
- Be a mentor to students from your home locality who are interested in engineering or medicine
- Be a leader in a student clubs or organizations
- Volunteer for leadership positions within FFE
- Lead people in your community to help change things that you think could be made better

Traits of a Leader

- Driven
- Committed
- Honest
- Forward-Looking
- Competent
- Inspiring
- Confident
- Focused
- Optimistic
- Strategic
- Empathetic
- Flexible
- Creative

For more about these traits and how they relate to leadership, read these articles:

- [Nine Traits that Define Great Leadership](#)
- [Eleven Powerful Traits of Successful Leaders](#)
- [M.S. Dhoni's 10 Leadership Lessons](#)

"Leadership is hard to define and good leadership even harder. But, if you can get people to follow you to the end of the earth, you are a great leader."

-Indra K. Nooyi, President and CFO, PepsiCo

Styles of Leadership

Leaders use a variety of leadership styles. Studies show that the best leaders use different types of leadership styles for different situations. A landmark [Harvard Business School study](#) by Daniel Goleman describes the following leadership styles:

1. **Pacesetter Leaders** expect excellence and self-direction. They say: "Do as I do, now."
2. **Authoritative Leaders** mobilize people toward a vision. They say: "Come with me."
3. **Affiliative Leaders** create emotional bonds and harmony. They say: "People come first."
4. **Coaching Leaders** develop people for the future. They say: "Try this."
5. **Coercive Leaders** demand immediate compliance. They say: "Do what I tell you."
6. **Democratic Leaders** build a consensus through participation. They say: "What do you think?"

When you are acting as a leader, think about what leadership style will work best for the situation. Ask yourself questions like:

- How do the decisions I make impact others?
- How do my skills and attributes contribute to being an effective leader?
- Who are my role models and teachers? How have they been good leaders?
- What do I think of when I think of a leader?

Talking the Leadership Talk

Employers rank leadership skills as one of the most important qualities that candidates bring to a job. They are likely to ask interview questions about leadership.

Here are some examples of interview questions related to leadership. Think about how you would answer these questions. Write down your answers, with specific evidence from different experiences. Consider what leadership opportunities you could take on to better answer these questions in the future.

1. Explain a situation where you served as a leader. Explain your role and how individuals responded to your leadership.
2. How do you get others to accept your ideas?
3. Describe a time you took a leadership position when you did not have the title of leader.
4. How do you resolve conflict? What strategies have you used to be successful?
5. Who have you coached or mentored to achieve success?

"As we look ahead to the next century, leaders will be those who empower others."

-Bill Gates, Co-Founder, Microsoft

Learning from Leaders

Look for leaders at your college and in your community. Interact with them and observe how they lead.

Watch talks on leadership to better understand the landscape and new ideas. You can start with these talks and articles:

- INK talk on [Learning to Be a Leader](#): Former Procter and Gamble CEO for Northeast Asia Ravi Chaturvedi talks about what he's learned about leadership.
- TED talk on [Learning from Leadership's Missing Manual](#): Social Entrepreneur Fields Wicker-Miurin shares stories of local leaders in Brazil, India and China.
- TED talk on [Why We Have Too Few Women Leaders](#): Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg discusses the importance of women leaders and ways to increase opportunities for women.

Share with us on Facebook examples of how you've been a leader! And learn from your FFE peers and their examples of leadership.



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