

What is a Leader?

L1-A3

Leadership means different things to different people. At different times of your life, you might demonstrate leadership qualities - as a team leader, a classmate, a friend, a family member, an employee.

✧ Leadership is putting effort into getting other people to work towards a goal you believe is worthwhile. A leader tries to influence others to accept an idea and to become an active part of a plan to make that idea reality.

The essence of leadership is communication. Your effectiveness as a leader is directly related to your approach and your ability to communicate clearly.

Leadership Styles

L1-A4

There are many styles of leadership and no single style is "best." Each depends on the situation, the leadership style appropriate to the situation, the personalities of the team or group members, the tasks to be accomplished, and the decisions to be made. The main distinction or difference among the different leadership styles is the leader's relationship with team members.

1. Leader as TELLER

- gives direction; tells team members what to do
- tells team how to do it; assumes team members have all the information they need to solve problems
- makes decisions
- doesn't "waste time" interacting with the team

2. Leader as DELEGATOR

- identifies boundaries; defines areas of responsibility
- hands responsibility over to team
- expects results



3. Leader as PERSUADER

- includes team members in decision making
- makes final decisions
- encourages co-operation from the team to execute plan

4. Leader as CONSULTANT

- encourages team participation and input in decisions
- makes final decisions based on consensus
- acknowledges team members' expertise/opinions
- consults with the team

5. Leader as JOINER

- sees self as a member of the team
- follows the overall desire of the team
- steps down as "leader"

Pros/Cons Chart

L1-A5

Use the chart below, summarize each leadership style in your own words in the first column; list at least 2 pros and 2 cons for each style. At the bottom of the chart, describe your preferred style or styles and why. Would you change your style based on the situation? Place the completed chart into your unit folder.

Leadership Styles	Pros	Cons
Teller		
Delegator		
Persuader		
Consultant		
Joiner		
What style(s) do you prefer? Why?		

