



JUNIOR LEADERSHIP CORPS: Who Are You As A Leader?

LESSON 1:

A Look at Leadership



Why This Lesson Is Important

What makes a leader a good one? Think about the leaders in your life...family members, an instructor, an older sibling or friend. What qualities and characteristics do they possess that makes them a leader in your eye? What about you? Do you see yourself as a leader too? In this learning plan you'll begin to discover the attributes of leadership and the strengths you already possess. You'll also begin to identify attributes you'd like to strengthen and consider ways to begin developing your skills and abilities for leadership success.

What you will DO in This Lesson

Analyze your current leadership attributes

You will show that you have learned this skill by:

- analyzing your own strengths and weaknesses as a leader
- by developing an outline to improve your current leadership attributes

Your performance will be successful when you identify how:

- communication is a leadership attribute
- organization is a leadership attribute
- management is a leadership attribute
- business skill and ability are leadership attributes
- responsibility is a leadership attribute
- working with groups is a leadership attribute
- goal setting is a leadership attribute

Things you'll learn along the way:

- Assess your leadership strengths and weaknesses
- Define a leader
- Analyze the qualities of a leader
- Differentiate between leadership and followership
- Determine how teamwork fits into leadership.

Vocabulary

Leader

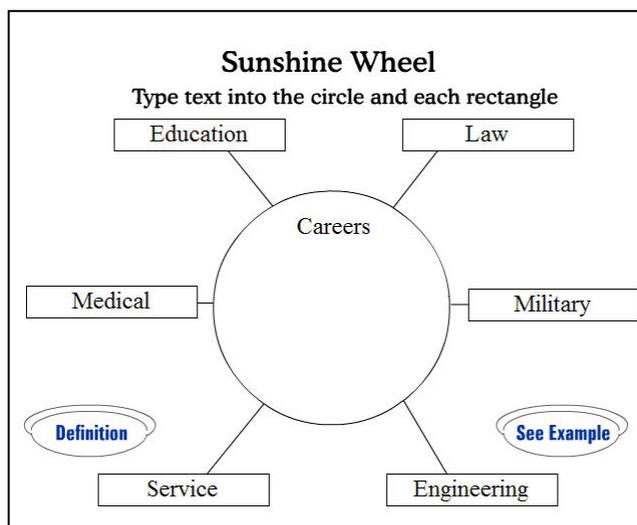
Attribute

Followership

Purpose

PART 1: Learning Activities

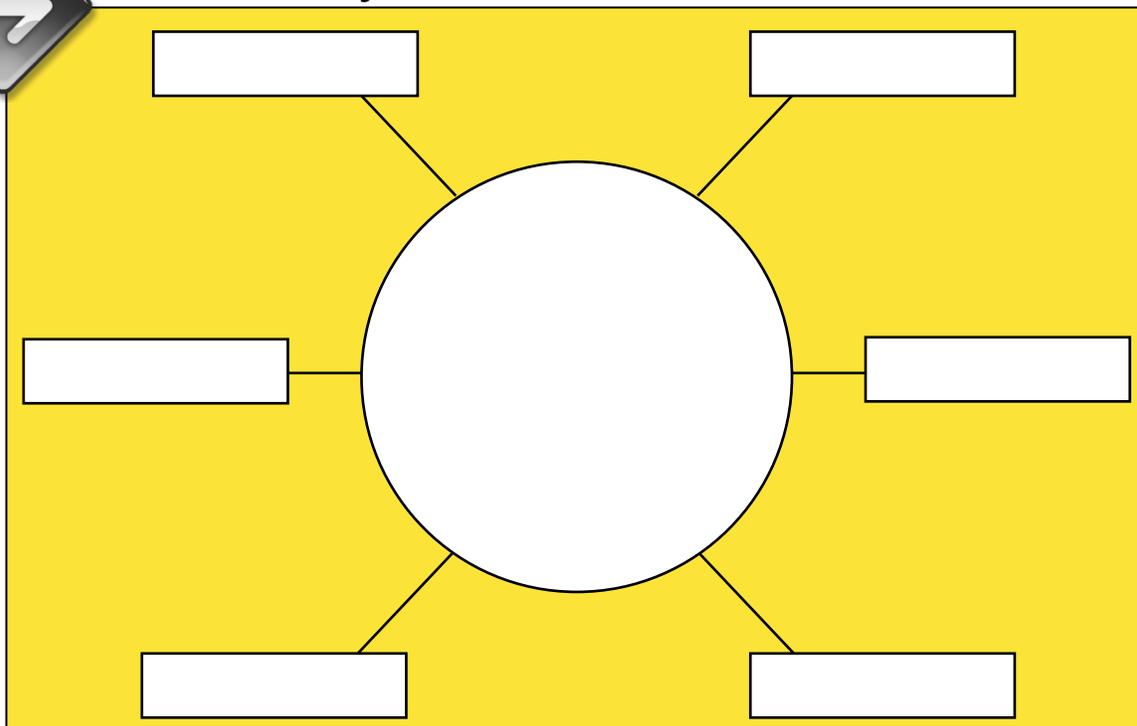
1. REVIEW the *Why This Lesson Is Important* and *What You Will DO In This Lesson* sections of this Student Learning Guide. THINK about this quote: "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader". THINK about yourself. Are you a leader?
2. In assigned teams, BRAINSTORM the qualities you think a leader should have as a student leader, a leader in your home, a leader among your friends, a leader in a company or organization. CREATE a Sunshine Wheel graphic organizer to show the qualities your assigned 'leader position' should have. PREPARE to share your design with others in the class.



Example



Now You Try



___ 3. OBSERVE the presentation on the Attributes of Leadership. COMPARE the attributes presented to those on the class Sunshine Wheel. NOTE the similarities. REVIEW the Leadership Attributes by completing the presented quiz questions. ASK questions about areas you are unclear about.

___ 4. THINK about what kind of leader you are. Do you have any of the leadership qualities or attributes that were discussed in class? Take some time to COMPLETE the Leadership Attributes Self-Assessment located in your Student Learning Guide. COMPLETE the One Minute of Zen (OMOZ) activity to reflect on what you've learned today about leadership. THINK about what qualities you believe you already possess. ADD your responses to the questions in the Reflection Section.



Add Your Notes Here:

Reflection Section



Are you the leader you thought you were? Why or why not?

Leadership Attributes Self-Assessment

Target Competency

Analyze your current leadership attributes

Student Directions

It's no doubt that you have the potential for leadership. Your leadership strengths are evident to you and others. However, there may be weaker attributes of leadership that you see in yourself too.

Complete the self-assessment below and 'rate' yourself on your strengths or weaknesses on these key attributes of leadership.

Rating Scale

- 3 This is strong attribute of mine. I need little to no improvement in this leadership area.
- 2 I do pretty well in this area, but I can strengthen this attribute to become a stronger leader.
- 1 This is a weak attribute for me. I need to develop this area to become a stronger leader.

Scoring Guide

	Criteria	Ratings		
1.	Communication attributes	3	2	1
2.	Organizational attributes	3	2	1
3.	Management attributes	3	2	1
4.	Responsibility attributes	3	2	1
5.	Work with and in groups	3	2	1
6.	Goal setting and/or goal-oriented attributes	3	2	1

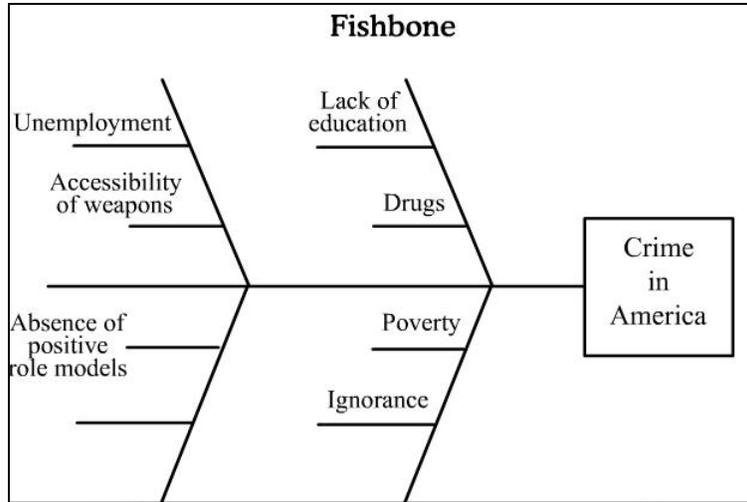
PART 2: Learning Activities

1. So, you're a leader? ANSWER the Part 2 focusing question provided by your instructor.
2. In a group, OBSERVE or READ the provided information about national and international leaders and TAKE NOTES about the leadership qualities you see in your assigned leader. COMPARE qualities you see in them to those outlined in the Attributes of Leaders Chart. What attributes of leadership do they possess?

Add Your Notes Here:



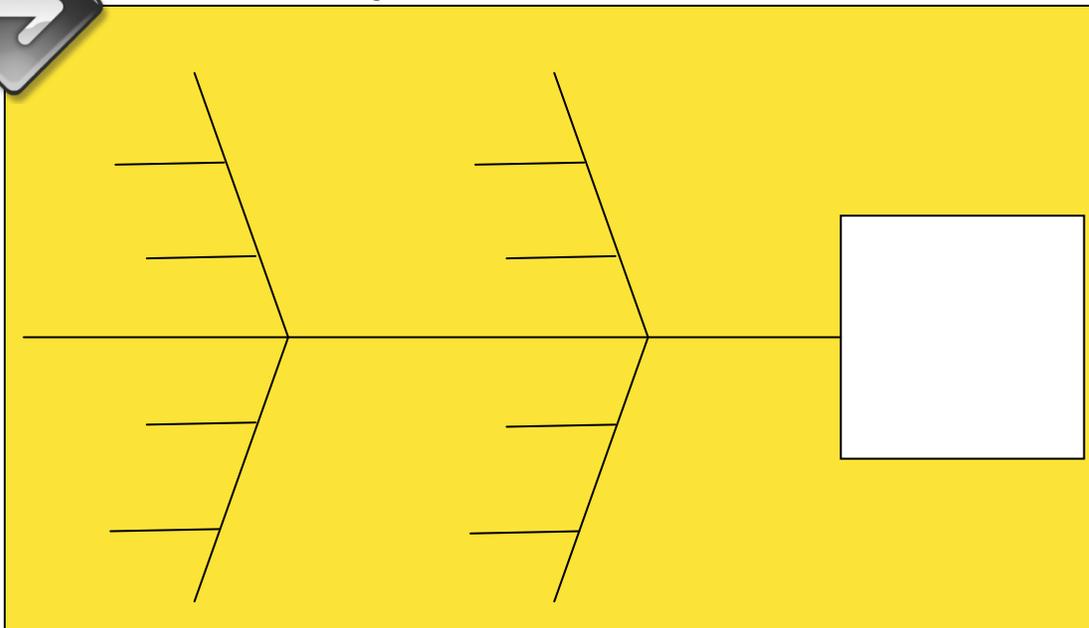
____3. With the same small group, CREATE a Fishbone Diagram that showcases the name of your leader, the six attributes of leadership discussed, and what evidence or insight you have about that leader that showcases or supports an attribute.



Example



Now You Try



- ____ 4. REFLECT on the activities you took part in during Part 2 of *A Look at Leadership*. Add your thoughts to the question provided in the *Reflection Section* below.
-

Reflection Section



Reflect on the activities you took part in during Part 2 of A Look at Leadership.

PART 3: Learning Activities

- ____ 1. Now that you've investigated the attributes of leadership a bit more, how would you complete the following statement: A leader is _____. BRAINSTORM with a small group what a real definition for 'leader' is.

Write It Here

A Leader is...



- ____ 2. OBSERVE the definition of a leader and the Leadership Dynamic. COMPARE the NMSCC definition to those produced during the brainstorm earlier.
- ____ 3. PARTICIPATE in a class team-building activity. DISCUSS how teamwork fits into leadership. CONSIDER what the goal of the game was, the leader of the game, and what attributes of leadership were displayed by the leader. Was the goal obtained? ANSWER the reinforcing questions about the Leadership Dynamic.

How does teamwork fit into leadership?

Think About It

Consider what the goal of the game was, the leader of the game, and what attributes of leadership were displayed by the leader. Was the goal obtained?

PART 4: Learning Activities

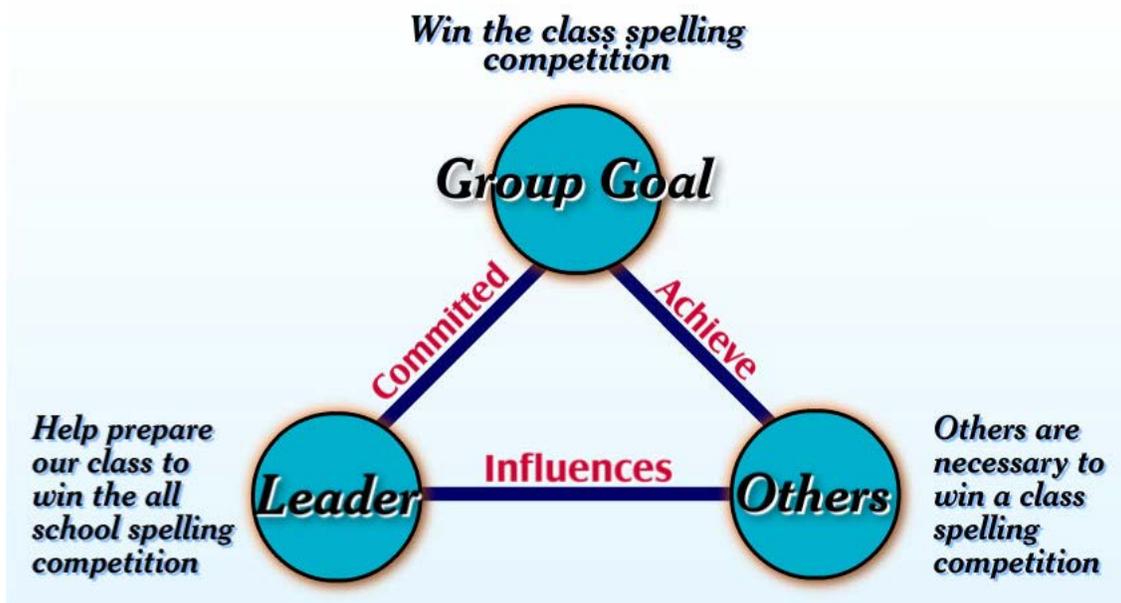
1. OBSERVE the 'Mission to the Moon' video. With others in the class, CONTRIBUTE your thoughts on evidence of John F. Kennedy's leadership. What attributes did he have? Explain.

Write It Here

Contribute your thoughts on evidence of John F. Kennedy's leadership. What attributes did he have? Explain.



2. EXAMINE again the Leadership Dynamic. ADD the purpose, leader and others as witnessed in the "Mission to the Moon" video. CONSIDER the following questions. What was the purpose or goal outlined in the video? Who was the leader committed to that goal? Who were the 'others' that the leader influenced? Did this team (leader and others) achieve the goal?





What was the purpose or goal outlined in the video?

Who was the leader committed to that goal?

Who were the 'others' that the leader influenced?

3. READ about "Followership" below. In small groups, LIST three reasons why a 'follower' is essential to the leader and the goal of the Leadership Dynamic. USE an example from a time that you were a follower under someone else's leadership. How did you contribute as a follower?

Followership

Followership is knowing how to act as a member of a team. Good followership is essential to good team performance. There are certain qualities or traits of followership that all team members must display to ensure their team is capable of accomplishing its missions.

Team members who take on the role of follower share many of the same attributes as leaders. For example, both the leader and follower use communication skills in their roles on a team. A leader must communicate the goal or mission to the team by giving simple, clear and concise directions. So, leaders must have good speaking skills, using a tone of voice that is encouraging and not bossy. Leaders need to be able to explain their vision and how they hope to approach the mission and what role each follower can take in helping the team accomplish their task.

Likewise, a follower must also have good communication skills by listening to the leader and encouraging the leader that the plan of action is a good one. Followers must be able to do the role that they have been asked to take and listen to instruction along the way.

Can you see how followers also use other leadership attributes too? You'll learn more about leadership attributes and their impact on all areas of life later in Module 1, Lesson 2: Attributes of Leadership.

Just as a **leader** influences others to help achieve a common goal or mission, so too do the **followers** help the leader in accomplishing it. Followers are as unique to the team as the leader. By using a commonsense approach and taking only the actions that are appropriate and necessary for each situation, the team and all its members will be able to successfully accomplish any assigned task.

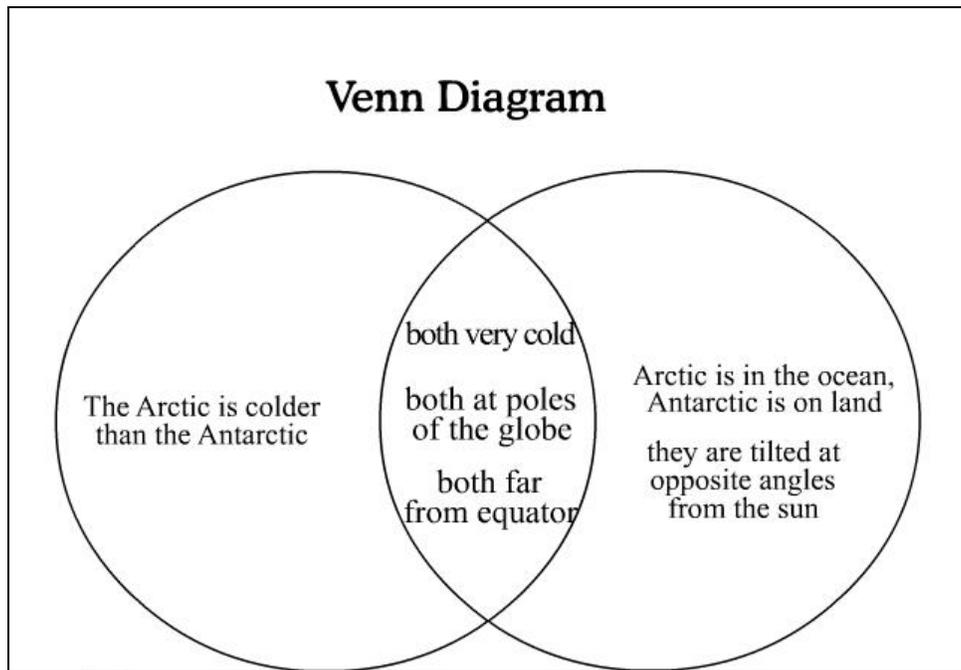
Write It Here

List three reasons why a 'follower' is essential to the leader and the goal of the Leadership Dynamic. Use an example from a time that you were a follower under someone else's leadership. How did you contribute as a follower?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)



4. With a team or small group, CREATE a Venn Diagram that shows the attributes of a leader and the attributes of a follower. NOTE any similarities and differences.

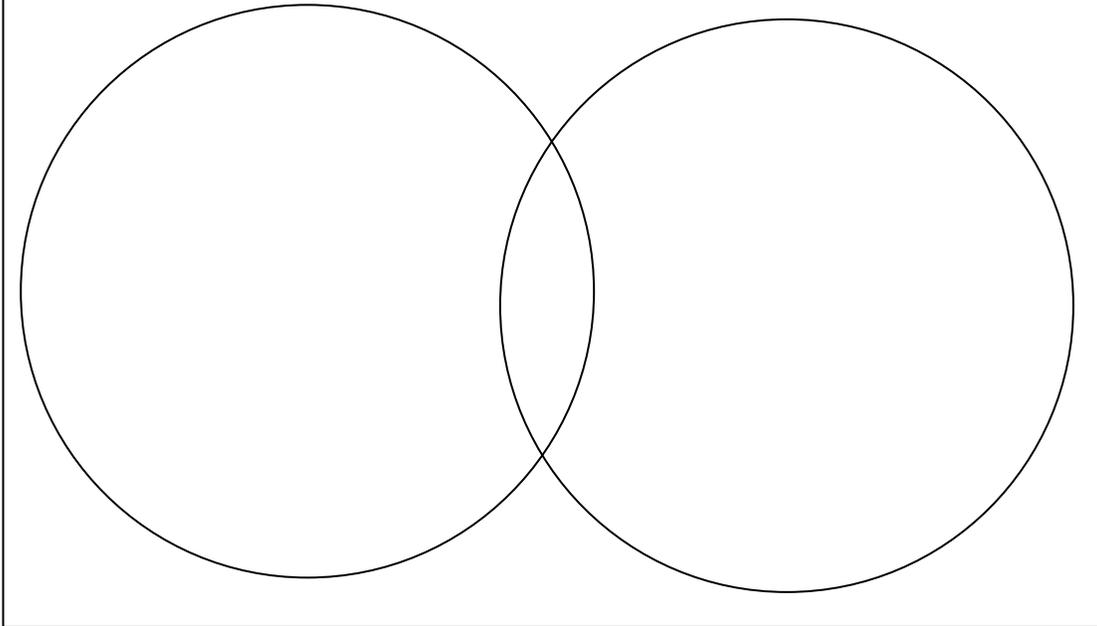


Example



Now You Try

Attributes of a Leader vs. a Follower



- ____ 5. JUSTIFY a chosen leader and his/her qualities by participating in the Friday Game activity.
- ____ 6. RECONSIDER your strengths and weaknesses as a leader. COMPLETE *A Look at Leadership Assessment Task* below. USE the scoring guide to self-assess your skills and outline some areas you'd like to improve upon throughout this course. ADD your completed assessment to Leadership Section of your NMSCC Portfolio.

A Look at Leadership Assessment Task

Target Competency

Analyze your current leadership attributes

Student Directions

Think about all you've learned in the "A Look at Leadership" Learning Plan. At the beginning of this learning plan you assessed yourself as a leader. Perhaps you've learned a bit more about leadership and the qualities or attributes of a leader. Re-evaluate your leadership attributes by rating yourself with the attached scoring guide. Then, under each of the attribute categories, write down one or two areas you'd like to improve on to make yourself a stronger leader.

When you are finished, add this as an artifact to the Leadership Section of your National Middle School Cadet Corps Portfolio.

Rating Scale

- 3 This is a leadership strength for me.
- 2 This is an area of growing strength for me.
- 1 This is a weak area for me.

Scoring Guide			
	Criteria	Ratings	How I Can Improve
1.	Communication skills and abilities	3 2 1	
2.	Organizational skills and abilities	3 2 1	
3.	Management skills and abilities	3 2 1	
4.	Business skills and sense	3 2 1	
5.	Responsibility	3 2 1	
6.	Ability to work well in groups or with others	3 2 1	
7.	Goal-setting and goal-meeting skills and abilities	3 2 1	

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