

## Leadership Characteristics

Defining leadership characteristics are not simple. This is because each leader has his own characteristics. Influencing team members to work hard and stay committed to achieve the overall organizational goals are necessary attributes of a leader. A leader falls into two categories, task oriented or people oriented. Task oriented leader will be interested in training, performance and in winning. Whereas a people oriented leader will concentrate more on interpersonal relationship.

A leader must possess certain characteristics which he wants to incorporate into his team. Discipline, self confidence etc. are the essential qualities of a leader. As he is the role model for the followers, his movement will be keenly watched by others. Because he is constantly being observed, a leader must be careful when doing everyday tasks.

Leaders are not born but made by hard work. Hard work and intelligence are important leadership characteristics. A leader must make decisions after analyzing each and every aspect of the situation and must be able to use common sense in accomplishing complex tasks. He must also know how to select the right strategy to tackle the situation. Adaptability to various situations and willingness to accept changes are crucial to leadership.

Being able to motivate his team members to achieve success is another trait of a good leader. He must generate excitement and confidence in completing a task. His subordinates must feel as if he is easy to approach. The art of communication and the ability to be a good listener is one of his greatest assets. Essential in leadership is two way communication.

Pushing the entire effort of his team is a must for any leader. Using the full potential of each member should be within his capacity. To prove their skills, he must give opportunities to each team member.

A great leader is one who guides a team and not rules the team. One of the crucial leadership characteristics is providing a trusting and open environment to the team members. He should offer an environment to the team members to where they can learn and grow. A strong sense of vision is yet another characteristic of an excellent leader.

A good leader must have the following characteristics, aside from the above characteristics mentioned:

1. Self esteem - Self esteem is an important quality of a leader which will help to face tough challenges.
2. Need to achieve - being goal oriented and striving hard to achieve the goals is a must trait for a leader. Taking risks is in his nature. One who takes moderate and not extreme risks is the mark of a good leader.
3. Screening for opportunity - Having the ability to screen opportunities as useful and useless are a must for a leader. Any small opportunity missed by his competitors he quickly seizes.
4. Optimism - a good leader must be an optimist. He should be able to see problems as challenges. A great leader will always view an obstacle as a way to a new direction.
5. Courage - an outstanding leader is one who has courage to face challenges. Risk taking is a crucial characteristic of a leader. He must be able to make changes and to accept changes.

## About the Author

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