



Winning Essay on **LEADERSHIP**

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The term leadership can be defined in different ways by different people. Leadership, as defined in the Oxford Advanced Learner dictionary is “the state or position of a leader”. According to Dr. Robey, “Leadership is the ability to inspire and guide others to see a vision of fruition.” Lussier and Achua, in 2004, defined Leadership as “the influencing process of leaders and followers to achieve organizational objectives through changes.” Therefore, as I understand it, leadership is the ability of a leader to guide others to achieve a common goal. With these definitions, one can see clearly the importance of leadership because a nation without a leader is like a sheep without a shepherd.

Leadership is categorized into different levels. At the peak, there is the national leader known as the President, and at the state level there is a governor. The local government area is also a level with the chairman leading. Every organization has a leader. But the family is the first level of leadership because here the father is also a leader.

The success or failure of a group or a nation depends on its leadership. Hence, a leader should possess certain good qualities. A leader must be legitimate. Legitimacy is a situation where a leader is accepted by his subjects. A leader should also promote the interest of his subjects. He should be able to unite the people and remove the areas of differences amongst them.

By so doing, the leader becomes a symbol of unity. A leader should also be patriotic and lead by example, being mindful of the fact that his subjects look-up to him as their leader and mentor.

However, when a leader does not possess these qualities he might be rejected and removed from office by the people. Youths who are the future of tomorrow are not encouraged by some of the national and state leaders who indulge in some evil and corrupt practices like siphoning public funds. This is with respect to the current crisis going on in Nigeria where the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) are investigating and fishing out governors who have left office, but were engaged in siphoning public funds. Our youth are not yet initiated into such corrupt practices as we can see some youth leaders who are patriotic and accountable to the people. Yet some do engage in corruption and abuse their power as leaders. Also, youth elections can be compared to that of the national and state level, where we find people kidnapping others, assassinating and committing rituals just to win election.

As I see this, it is just the struggle for power and influence and money not for a better tomorrow. Some of our leaders should prove themselves by organizing seminars and workshops for our youths on leadership. Not just that, but also work hard to fight corruption especially among leaders. Hence, we all should work hard towards the progress of tomorrow.

