

# *Winning Essay on* **LEADERSHIP**

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In every society, there are people who tell others what to do and those who do what they are told. The saying goes, “there are no leaders without followers and no followers without leaders.” The success of any group depends less on the products or services than on how they develop and build the soul of the group. Research on leadership has produced many definitions from different authors like Eisenhower who described leadership as “the act of getting someone to do something you want done because he wants to do it.” Also, Baggett defined leadership as “the ability to influence a group in order to achieve a set goal.” Leadership is a common thread that flows through human civilization and good leadership is associated with better performance and the ability to influence the course of history.

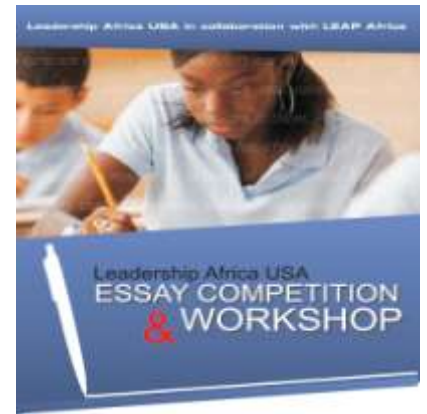
There are levels of leadership at the national, state, and organization and family levels. At the national level, we have the president he is in charge of the country. He represents the country at most international gatherings. At the state level we have governors who take charge of a state. He directs the affairs of the state. At the organizational level, we have government and non-government organizations.

The governmental organizations work hand in hand with the non-governmental organizations to embark on many humanitarian aids. At the family

level, the father heads the nuclear family. He provides for, protects, and control all the happening, in the family, which in the extended family; the oldest male becomes the head. In religious settings, we have the clergy as represented by the Pope for Christian faith. In the Islamic realm, we have the sultans and so on. Leaders can be democratically elected as in the political setting where leaders are voted into office by the peoples’ mandate. Again, leaders could emerge through inheritance as in the case of traditional rulers. Leaders could also emerge by force as in the case of the military who usually take over government by force or through coup.

For a group to achieve their set goal there must be a good leader. As recorded in history, the assumption is that leaders were born not made. Leaders like George Washington and Alexander the great were said to have been blessed with an inborn ability to lead because they were thrust into leadership roles at very young ages. A good leader should be able to initiate actions as in the case of Alexander the Great who was described by Walter Lippmann as “A man who can tell someone to go to hell and make the person look forward to the trip.” A good leader should be friendly and be able to originate new ideas for the progress of his group. He should try to be a symbol of unity in order to reduce the areas of difference in his group to avoid breakdown of order for a saying goes, “united we stand, divided we fail.” Not only should





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a leader be tolerant in his dealings with people, he should be impartial in discharging his duties as a leader. Finally, he should try to be a servant leader which is the best type of leadership with the aim of leaving a legacy behind.

Just as Helen Keller said, “It is impossible for civilization to flow backwards when there are youths in the world.” His holiness late Pope John Paul II described the period of youth as the time of a particular type of intense discovery of human capacities. The youth represent industry, creativity, and idealism. The life of a youth is geared towards achieving unending goals, one of which is to be a parent. Youths are generally strong and sometimes vigorous. Leadership among youths is very vital because they eventually grow into adulthood and take the responsibility of making the world better for living.

Leadership among youths can be grouped into the religious groups and social or community groups. At the religious level, we have outspoken young men and women who show outstanding characters in times of crisis emerge as leaders who from religious groups like CYON (Catholic Youths Organisation of Nigeria).

At this level, they are mainly under their spiritual director who guides and provides for them. At the community level, we have age grades of which the youths belong. They identify themselves through initiation. At this level, they embark on community services from keeping the town clean, to protection of lives and properties.

“The final test of a leader is that he leaves in others the willingness to carry on.” These were the words of Walter Lippmann as he described a good leader. Bringing up ideas as a leader is not enough, but putting them into practice is what makes you a success. Leadership is all about taking responsibility; you have to be responsible for what you do and what others under you also have done. A time will come when before one takes up leadership position, people will definitely question his leadership abilities.

