



Winning Essay on **LEADERSHIP**

OMACHI UKO

Pine Crest College, Enugu, Nigeria

Some people are born with leadership, for other people leadership is thrown upon, yet some acquire it. Leadership to me means servant hood.

You cannot learn to lead a people without being sensitive to their needs, wants and aspirations. Some of the greatest leaders in the world are always willing to serve first. I am talking about people like Jesus, Bill Clinton, Nelson Mandela, and Prof. Dora Akunyili to name a few.

There are certain qualities leaders are supposed to portray, they include courage; a leader is supposed to be brave and courageous, he is not supposed to fear challenges but rather look forward to them. A leader is supposed to be caring and compassionate; he is supposed to have the tendency to make people feel comfortable. He should be reassuring in times of trouble and havoc; he is supposed to assure his followers that the problem will be dealt with. A leader is supposed to keep to his words. When he makes a promise to his people he is expected to fulfill it. This will create trust between him and his followers. A leader is expected to interact and communicate with his followers, attend to their needs and listen to their opinions.

There are two sets of leaders: good leaders and bad leaders. A good leader is one rightfully elected by the people; has an aim to change the state of the society or improve on it and make it suitable for

his followers. A good leader wants peace and harmony to reign in the society he is umpire over. Peace is a very important factor because it helps the activities in the city to be run effectively. A good leader does not make glib talk, he says what

he will be able to accomplish. A good leader has a forgiving heart. He accepts an apology for wrong done to him. A good leader brings out rules that are meaningful and would help promote order in the society.

A bad leader is one that has no aim or goal for the society which he runs; he just feels he gains a lot by being the leader of the society. A bad leader is one that likes to enjoy the benefits and funds meant for the people. He is harsh, makes laws that he does not abide by. He does not keep his words, which creates distrust between him and his followers.

A bad leader usually comes in by force and is hard to vote out of office. Most bad leaders can also be voted through cheating, filling ballot boxes and multiplying finger prints. In order to avoid electing a bad leader, free and fair elections are to be held.

Leadership is supposed to be for those that are entitled to it and not those that do not deserve it. Change is what the people are looking for. Leaders stand up for the rights of their people. An example is Lady Rosa Parks; she was a woman who did not allow herself to be discriminated against by the whites. She believed she had the same rights as everybody in her district and fought to make sure that happened. Martin Luther King Jr. is another well known person; Mary Slessor and so many more.

I believe everyone has the ability to be a leader. It is sitting inside and waiting to be exploited.

