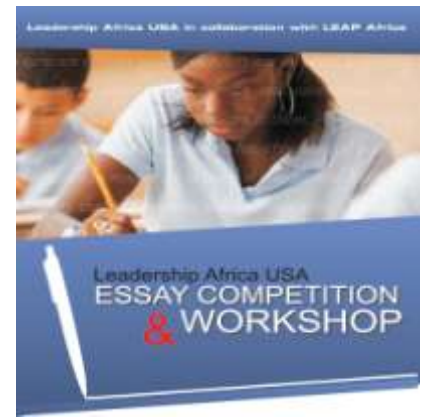




# *Winning Essay on* **LEADERSHIP**

ONUCHUKWU CHIAGOZIE

University of Nigeria Secondary School  
Enugu Campus, Nigeria



One would like to know what leadership means; hence leadership has been defined by many authors and from many dimensions. According to Oxford English Dictionary, leadership is defined as “the act of being a leader or the ability to be a leader.” Dr. Robey Jones also defined leadership as “the ability to guide and inspire others to see a vision to fruition.” John Quincy Adams further defined leadership as “the ability to guide and inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more by your actions.” But in my own view, I would say that leadership is the ability to guide and serve others to achieve some stated goals with a careful adherence to the practice of the rule of law. Leadership among youths has been defined by John Maxwell as “the ability of the youth to appoint a leader who is able to lead them and always ready to represent them at all time.”

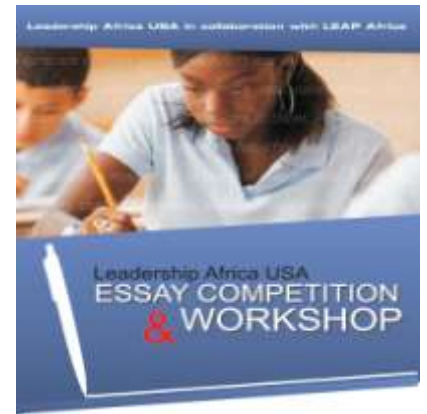
Leadership among the youth can be seen in our homes, schools, religious institutions and the society at large. In our homes, the father is assumed as the head of the family, but in a case where the father is not available, the next available son will assume leadership in the family and thereby help the other members of the family to actualize their dreams or goals. In the schools, there is a class representative or prefect who is formally nominated or elected. In the religious sector, leadership among the youth is seen since there is the existence of organizational hierarchy (level) whether formal or informal. So also is the case in the societal level and even in the different level of government. Sequel to this, leadership calls for controversy, that is, who goes in for leadership, how does he behave, what he is, what has he done

and what is he capable of doing. Leadership skills are learned through experience, discussions, reading, classes and also, through practical examples. There is a saying that “leaders are born and not made.” On the contrary, leaders are made and not born as this entails making time, intellectual and emotional investment for the recipient's future development. It can therefore be said that in leadership, skill is important but character is essential.

In leadership, there are certain qualities needed to achieve good leadership without which leadership will be null and void. Some of these qualities are that a good leader must have confidence in his ability to lead. He must be a good listener, humble and honest. He must settle conflict early enough. He must maintain mutual commitment to goals. He must encourage creativity and innovation. For one to be a good leader, he must be a good follower. A good leader must increase his skills so as to give effective leadership. A good leader must be disciplined about what they invest in their minds. Dr. Tim Elmore explained that, “our minds work like computers. It only spits out what is given to it, garbage in garbage out. Leaders should be mindful of what they invest in their mind.”

Poor leadership skills could lead to failure of making assignments and instructions clear, being a boss instead of a leader and being indifferent to indiscipline and instruction when needed. Poor leadership skill can also cause calamity in the society. In this case, the leader might not be able or might not possess the





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good leadership quality thereby regarding himself as the boss and not the leader faring for him and his family alone, the villagers might resolve to cheating, criminal acts like robbing the community etc. there should be transparency in leadership.

Therefore it is important that a leader knows his leadership principles, has the quality of a good leader and bear in mind that leadership is not a position and should not be regarded as such, leadership should be according to a person's intellectual and cognitive abilities and experience, since the best leader may be the one with the least academic qualification.

