



LEADING

YOUR

OWN

LEARNING

**Secondary
Students**



QUAGLIA INSTITUTE
VOICE & ASPIRATIONS



LEADERSHIP & RESPONSIBILITY

How to be a leader of your own life and of your own learning.

The Condition of Leadership & Responsibility means:

Expressing ideas and acting on those ideas.

Taking responsibility for the classroom and school community.

Making responsible decisions.

Acting on behalf of others.

Being accountable for your words and actions.

Using your voice to make a difference in your school and community.





Who Am I As A Leader?



LEADERSHIP & RESPONSIBILITY SELF-ASSESSMENT

Score yourself on the statements below using the following scale:

4 – Always

3 – Most of the time

2 – Sometimes

1 – Seldom

0 – Never

	4	3	2	1	0
I am a leader at my school.					
I work hard to improve my leadership skills.					
I voice my opinion on school issues.					
I understand the consequences of decisions I make.					
I seek out opportunities to make decisions.					
I know how and why I make decisions.					
I listen to other students' ideas and opinions.					
I voice my opinions and ideas in the classroom.					
Total Score					





Based on your self-assessment, reflect on your strengths as a leader. How can you use your strengths to help others?

Based on your self-assessment, reflect on your lower scores and how others can help you improve as a leader.





Describe the *actions* of a leader in your school or community?



What does it mean for me to be a leader?



STUDENTS AS LEADERS

- List situations and opportunities in your life where you could be a leader, take initiative and make a difference for yourself.
- List situations and opportunities at school where you could be a leader.
- List situations and opportunities in your community where you could be a leader.
- What is one commitment you will make to assume more leadership in your life?





Understanding Leadership



WHAT DOES LEADERSHIP & RESPONSIBILITY FEEL LIKE?

Students say they feel the condition of Leadership & Responsibility when:

- They are involved in meaningful classroom decisions.
- They have a voice at school.
- They learn leadership skills.
- They are given opportunities to be a leader.
- They are allowed to make decisions about their education.
- They work with others to solve problems or address concerns.
- They are asked to explain their actions rather than being judged by them.
- All types of leaders are valued at school.
- Adults support their need for independence.

Choose one of the above bullets that is not true for you. Then, think about what you could do to improve this condition for yourself. For example, maybe you do not feel like you have a voice at school. How could you start to increase using your voice at school?



WHAT DOES EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP LOOK LIKE?

- Good leaders have great communication skills, which enables them to share their vision of the future with others.
- They are able to motivate others to get on board and work hard to achieve goals for the good of the whole.
- Great leaders represent a purpose beyond themselves and don't let their egos get in the way.
- They are good listeners, who are willing to respond to feedback from others and admit when they've made a mistake.

LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND ASSETS

Time Management: As a leader, you'll often find yourself juggling various tasks and responsibilities. Being a leader means you need to work efficiently and meet deadlines. Sometimes, it can be tough to decide which tasks should come first. Deadlines are your friends—they help you and your team complete tasks on time.

Goal-Setting: Leaders like you set goals to stay on track. When faced with challenges, they see them as chances to learn and grow. They break their big goals into smaller, achievable steps and measure progress along the way. Leaders also get creative when finding ways to reach their goals.

Communication: In today's world, communication comes in many forms, like talking, texting, photos, videos, and body language. No matter how you communicate, being effective is crucial for spreading your message and building a following.



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Decision-making: Each day, we make decisions—many of these decisions are inconsequential, but some of them affect other people. Over time, these decisions come together to contribute to the big-picture vision.

Advocating for or Defending a Cause: Leaders frequently play a role in advocating for a cause or defending a decision. They have the opportunity to go against the grain and speak up for marginalized voices.

Accountability: Using a system of checks and balances can help maintain the accountability necessary to achieve your goals successfully. And when something goes wrong, you can provide appropriate feedback and make improvements for your next move.

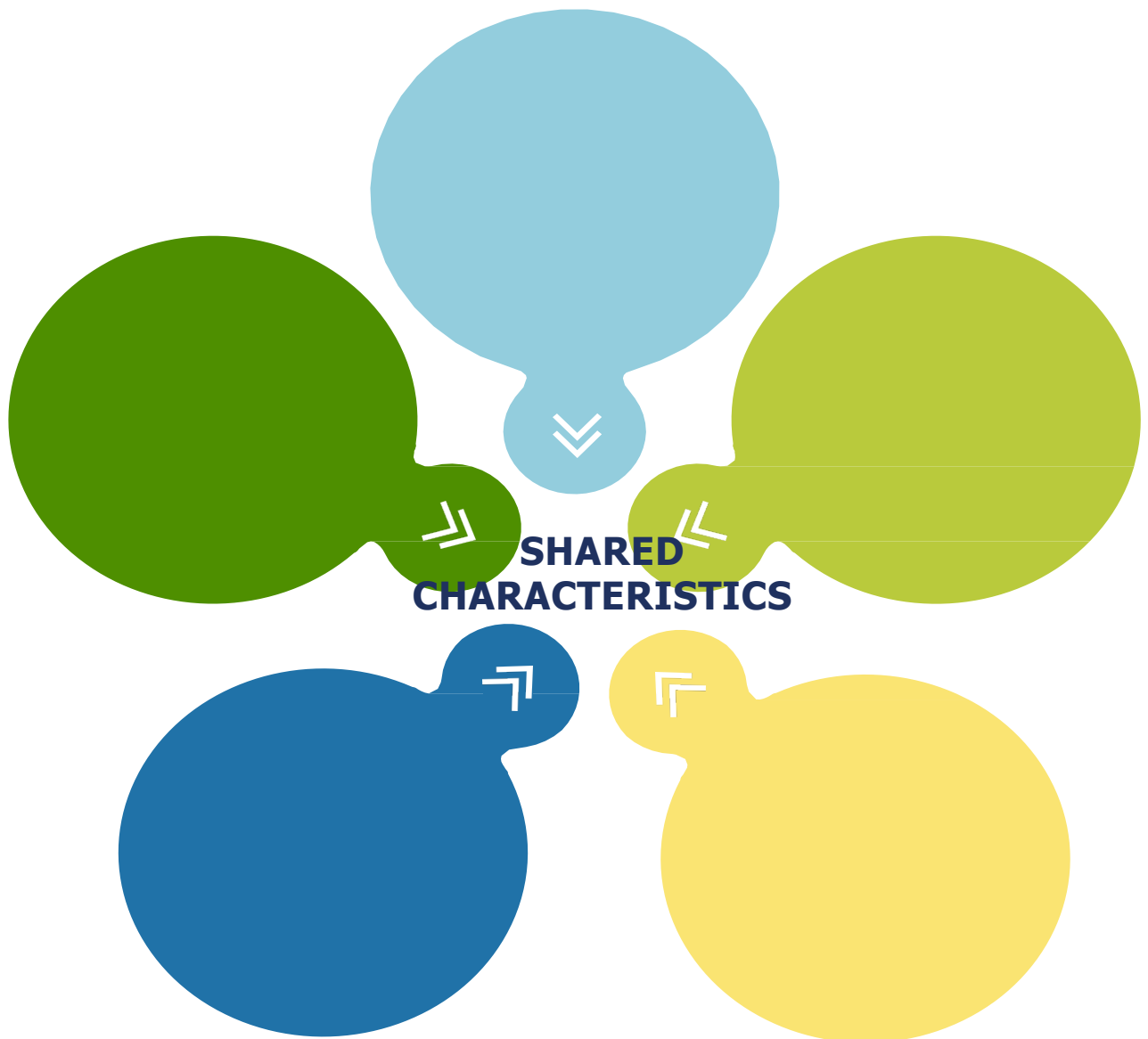
Networking: Networking is a skill that will be important throughout your leadership journey. But, when you're just getting started, it is especially important. Your network is your team of supporters and advocates. Once you have a team of supporters, your personal progress will become a joint mission. Social connections are tools that you can use to navigate through difficult situations. When you encounter a challenge, it's likely that others have experienced that same challenge. They may have advice or be able to offer the best practices they employed while navigating through that challenge.





LEADERS CARE

What characteristics do leaders share?



LEADERSHIP & RESPONSIBILITY CHALLENGE

Challenge yourself to do one or more of the following to improve the condition of Leadership & Responsibility for you and your school:

- Voice your opinion about a school issue you care about.
- Join a club, or start a new one.
- Seek out a leadership position, big or small.
- Be a positive supporter of other student leaders.
- Get to know the school principal and other school leaders.
- Admit your mistakes.
- Participate on a committee with adults.
- Practice your debating and oral skills.
- Take initiative and act on a cause you believe in.
- Commit to being a leader of your own learning – do your best for you.
- Be an up-stander and advocate for all students being treated with kindness.



DEBATE, DISCUSS, AND DECIDE WITH PEERS

- What traits do you admire most in student leaders?
- What makes a leader responsible versus irresponsible?
- How can a student be a quiet, introverted leader?
- What can students do to foster the condition of Leadership & Responsibility at school?
- Why do you think having the condition of Leadership & Responsibility in your life helps support your aspirations?





Becoming a Better Leader



STUDENTS AS LEADERS

Read one or more of the following articles, and then answer the questions below.

[Student leader demonstrates 'service above self'](#): When it comes to leading, Leah Davidson is the event coordinator — the one who makes the plans and recruits the people to show up.

[Leading the band, on field and off](#): “Don’t stay in your small group from middle school. High school is a whole different thing. You can’t be the same person you were in middle school. You have to be your own person. Make sure you know who you are as a person, what you do, and what your purpose is in life.”

[Girls of the Crescent](#): When teenagers Mena and Zena realized that they never saw characters like themselves in books, they decided to do something about it. They decided to start their own non-profit organization and now donate books to local school libraries.

[Leading with enthusiasm, energy and a lot of positivity](#) Warren Cody is bubbly, vivacious, a go-getter who knows how to make an impression. Admitting that people often hear him before they see him, the senior describes his leadership style as “energetic and loud.”

- How are these students a leader?
- What inspiration did you get from this article?
- How can you learn from the experiences of the students?



WHO DO I WANT TO BE?

Finish the statements below:

My greatest leadership strengths are

I would be a better leader if

I support the condition of Leadership & Responsibility for others by

To better support the condition of Leadership & Responsibility for me, adults could

To better support the condition of Leadership & Responsibility for me, other students could



HOW TO BE A LEADER

Adapted from

<https://xgsuperschool.org/teaching-learning/how-to-develop-leadership-skills-as-a-student/>

Take a moment to think about leaders you look up to. They may be your teachers, fellow students, artists, actors, or even people in charge of your community. Once you've got a few in mind ask yourself:

1. What makes these people great leaders?
2. What is it about them that makes you want to follow their lead?
3. How can their stories inspire you to become a leader too?

You've probably heard about lots of famous leaders in history books, on the news, or in your neighborhood. We remember these leaders for all the amazing things they did. But sometimes, we also remember leaders for the mistakes they made.

Being a good leader isn't just something reserved for famous people like Martin Luther King Jr. or Mahatma Gandhi, who made the world a better place. Think about the nurses who work tirelessly to take care of sick and elderly people, the artists who use their creativity to make us think differently, and the people in your community who stand up for what's right. Leaders are the ones who bring fresh ideas and help their communities grow.

At its simplest, being a leader means having the ability to lead and make a difference in the world around you. You don't need a fancy title to be considered a leader. You don't have to be the student body president to be a leader at your school. You just need to be someone who cares about a cause enough to take action.



LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES FOR SECONDARY STUDENTS

Here are some ideas from [Positive Psychology](#) for getting involved as a leader in your school and community:

- Participate in student government.
- Join or start a club.
- Get involved in sports teams or other after-school activities.
- Find volunteering opportunities.
- Get an internship.
- Complete a passion project.

Developing strong leadership skills will not only enhance your role as a member of society but will also help improve your ability to make a difference in your own life and the lives of others. Once you develop the skills necessary to lead, you can apply them however you want. Try using the [XQ Learner Goals](#) as a guide to develop leadership skills:

- Become a master of fundamental literacies.
- Learn foundational knowledge.
- Be an original thinker in an uncertain world.
- Be a generous collaborator.
- Commit to being a learner for life.

Part of the leadership journey is exploring your driving forces. Here are a few steps you can take to help define your purpose:

- Explore what motivates you and what you would like to do or change.
- Find out where you feel most connected and explore your role in meeting those needs.
- Define your aspirations and create a plan to get started.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP PODCASTS

Listen to the podcasts below to gather some suggestions as you work towards becoming a leader in your school.

[Episode 29 – Being Organised is ESSENTIAL in Leadership](#)

[Episode 30 – Keys to GROWING as a Leader](#)

[Episode 31 – Teamwork Makes the Dreamwork](#)

[Episode 37 – Leadership is Meant to be Fun!](#)

[Episode 63 – Making Decisions As a Leader](#)

[Episode 65 – Looking for Needs in Your Team, School, and Community](#)

For more of these podcasts visit
<http://studentleadership.news/podcast/>

