

# Leading Your Own Learning



Upper Elementary  
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
<b>I am a leader at my school.</b>					
<b>I am involved with school activities and clubs.</b>					
<b>I voice my opinions and ideas in the classroom.</b>					
<b>I understand the consequences of decisions I make.</b>					
<b>I take responsibility for my decisions and actions.</b>					
<b>I know how and why I make decisions.</b>					
<b>I listen to other students' ideas and opinions.</b>					
<b>I work hard to improve my leadership skills.</b>					
<b>Total Score</b>					





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

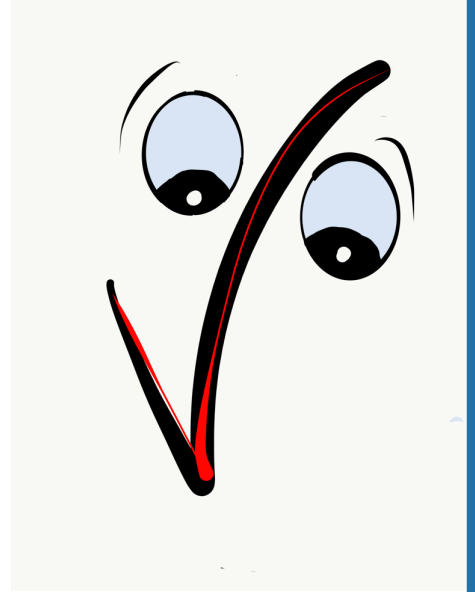
Based on your self-assessment, think about your lower scores and how others can help you improve as a leader.



# STUDENTS AS LEADERS

- List situations and opportunities at school where you could be a leader. For example, you can be a leader at school by helping others or showing kindness.
- Think about all the times you can be a leader in your neighborhood. You can be a leader when you help your friends, make your community better, or take charge of fun activities. You have many chances to be a leader and do great things in your community!"
- What is one commitment you will make to be a better leader?





# What Does Leadership Mean?



# UNDERSTANDING LEADERSHIP

Respond to the following questions:

- How do you accept responsibility for your actions?
- What leadership skills do you have?
- How do you let other students know your opinions and ideas?
- How do you make decisions?
- How will you be more involved in your school?

Think about what these words mean to you:

**Responsibility** is

**Leadership** is

**Decision-making** is

**Consequences** are





# DEBATE, DISCUSS, AND DECIDE WITH PEERS

Discuss the following:

1. It's okay to be a quiet leader... ***or is it?***
2. It's okay sometimes to follow... ***or is it?***
3. It's okay to be unsure of decisions you make... ***or is it?***
4. It's okay to let others make decisions for you... ***or is it?***
5. It's okay not to accept the consequences of some decisions... ***or is it?***





# **Becoming a Better Leader**



# HOW TO BE A GOOD LEADER

## **Being in Charge**

I am a responsible person. I take the lead to make things happen. I choose my own actions, attitudes, and moods. I do not blame other people for my mistakes. I focus on the things I can influence.

## **Having a Plan**

I plan ahead. I know how to set and achieve goals. I do things that have meaning and make a difference.

I am an important part of my classroom and contribute to my school's mission and purpose.

## **Work First, Then Play**

I spend my time on things that are most important.

This means I say no to things that are less important. I set priorities, make a schedule, and follow my plan. I am disciplined and organized.

## **Everyone Can Win**

I balance the courage to get what I want with consideration for what others want. I build good relationships with others by being kind, saying I'm sorry when needed, and keeping commitments. When conflicts arise, I look for options that work for both sides.



### **Listen Before You Talk**

I listen to other people's ideas and feelings. I try to see things from their viewpoints. I listen to others without interrupting. I am confident in voicing my ideas. I look people in the eyes when talking.

### **Together Is Better**

I value other people's strengths and learn from them. I get along well with others, even people who are different from me. I work well in groups. I seek out other people's ideas to solve problems.

### **Balance Feels Best**

I take care of my body by eating right, exercising, and getting sleep. I spend time with family and friends. I learn in lots of ways and lots of places, not just at school. I find meaningful ways to help others.  
I am balanced.



# INDIVIDUAL LEADERSHIP CHALLENGES

- When you are wrong, **admit your mistakes**.
- **Share your opinions** and ideas about your classroom with your teacher.
- **Make your own decisions**, rather than following your friends.
- **Write a letter** to the principal suggesting an idea to improve the school.
- **Think of your own** leadership challenge.

# CLASS LEADERSHIP CHALLENGES

## Choices

As a class, develop a list of pairs of similar words. For example, soccer or football, math or reading, beach or mountains. Have students line up in the middle of the classroom. Assign one student to read the list. If you prefer the first word, step left; if you prefer the second word, step right. Discuss whether you followed your own opinions or your friend's opinions.

## Leadership Traits

On the whiteboard, brainstorm leadership traits. Discuss the list. Add the following words to the list: quiet, thinker, writer, outsider, and young. Discuss whether these traits can also be leadership traits.



# STUDENTS AS LEADERS

Read one or more of the following articles, and then answer the questions on the next page.

In February 2010 Nicholas launched [Gotta Have Sole](#). He made connections with friends, local schools and businesses, members of his congregation, and family who helped him collect new shoes to be given to children living in homeless shelters in Rhode Island. He wrote to footwear manufacturers and retailers who joined his cause and donated new shoes and sneakers. In the first year 400 children received new footwear, many for the first time in their lives, who finally had shoes that fit and could join their peers on a tiled school floor, no longer falling behind because they finally had the footwear they needed to get to school.

At the age of 3, Ryan went with his dad to the local recycling center and cashed in a few small bags of cans and bottles and decided that recycling was in his future. The next day Ryan notified his mom and dad that he wanted to give empty plastic bags to all the neighbors and maybe they would save their recyclables for him. Not only did the local neighbors save their cans and bottles for Ryan but so did friends, families, and co-workers. Today, [Ryan's Recycling](#) has customers all over Orange County, CA and he has a passion for recycling that is amazing. His goal is to recycle to keep cans and bottles from reaching the ocean where it's harmful to the environment. Ryan spends a part of every week sorting through cans and bottles from his customers and getting them ready to take to the recycling center.



What began as a problem—Sydney was struggling to find African-American characters he could relate to—ended up turning into a wonderful opportunity when he discovered a local bookstore that promotes African-American children’s books. Inspired by his find and eager to share his passion for reading with his peers, Sydney founded [Books n Bros](#). Aimed at boys between the ages of 8 and 12, the now 50-strong club focuses on African-American literature and culture.

What can a four-year-old do to end hunger? Start a hunger relief organization, of course. Joshua Williams was confused when he discovered that people right in his neighborhood went without food. With the support of his family, Joshua founded [Joshua’s Heart Foundation](#), a not-for-profit organization, dedicated to the fight against global hunger and poverty through the community service of young people.

Orion Jean created his initiative called the [Race to Kindness](#) to help spread kindness through events and initiatives all over the world. He is also the author of *Race to Kindness* and *A Kids Book About Leadership*. Orion believes that everyone can make a difference. He is committed to inspiring and empowering people of all ages to be kind to each other, no matter what.

- How is this student a leader?
- What inspiration did you get from this article?
- How can you learn from the experiences of this student?

