

Setting The Example: Consideration of Others

“You’ll never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view, until you climb into his skin, and walk around in it.”

- Atticus Finch, To Kill A Mockingbird

As a leader you represent those whom you lead. To actually represent them, you need to separate your own feelings and needs to get to know what others want. Leaders are selfless- they put themselves last in line, give others the credit, and address the needs of others. This exercise will challenge you to consider how you act towards others, whether you know the needs of those around you, and what kind of difference you are making in the lives of others. This is not an easy activity. If you truly do it correctly, it will show you some interesting things about where you are as a leader.

Task #1 (Asking for someone’s opinion)

Just asking someone what he or she wants is a huge step in putting others before yourself. Go ask someone you do not already know their opinion about what they want to see happen at our school this year.

- 1 Who did you talk to?
- 2 Their role on campus?
- 3 What did they say?
- 4 What was their attitude to even being asked?
- 5 How did that make you feel?
- 6 Honestly, will you consider their comments in your plans for changing our school?

Task #2 (Empathy)

For lunch, you need to isolate yourself from your friends. This means you need to stay/eat by yourself somewhere on campus. If people come up to you, that’s fine just let them know you are doing an activity.

- 1 Was it hard to isolate yourself?
- 2 How did it feel to be by yourself?
- 3 How would you feel if I asked you to do this for a week? A month? A school year?
- 4 Are you aware of people that eat by themselves?
- 5 For people that eat by themselves, do you think that it is THEIR problem or do you feel compelled to help them?
- 6 If you feel compelled to help them how will you? If you have, how did you do it?

Task #3 (Giving others a voice)

For this task, you must not volunteer your opinion or a question for an entire day

(to include both in class and amongst your friends). You are practicing listening and allowing others to have their voice heard (If you are in a class that awards points for participation, this task would not count).

- 1 How was this different from your normal behavior (if it even was)?
- 2 Are you supportive when other people give their opinions?
- 3 How have you tried to get other people's opinions and ideas on projects that you are involved with?

Task #4 (Observing and recognizing other people)

This activity asks you to observe each person in all of your classes (1 red day & 1 black day).

- 1 For each period, count the number of people you know by their first name, the number of people you have talked to, and the number of people you have NEVER talked to (create a chart like the one below for your answers).

Class Period	# of students	# of people you know by first name	# of people you HAVE talked to	# of people you have NEVER talked to
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				

- 2 Were there people in any of your classes that you have never really noticed?
- 3 What causes you to talk to certain people?
- 4 Do you make an effort to connect with every person that you interact with?

FINAL REFLECTION

Write a 1-2 page (typed and double spaced) essay about how you felt doing this activity.

Questions for consideration:

What did it make you think about?

Did it make you consider any changes in your behaviors, actions, or interactions?

Basically, you should write about any thoughts you had as you did this assignment and anything you feel might be appropriate to add to this assignment in the future.