Student Name

Professor Name

Course

Date

A Leadership Workshop for a Community Group

A leadership workshop is an opportunity for the participants teach themselves as well as exercise on the important skills which will enable them to start influencing their followers as effectively as individuals like Martin Luther King Jr. did. In spite of the fact that there have been numerous leaders throughout history, only a handful of them are revered. Irrespective of the positions they held in the society, these individuals shared certain common characteristics. They tended to be completely committed to their causes, they chose strong allies, and they communicated their vision with clarity (Daley 169-70). Leaders like Martin Luther, Abraham Lincoln, and John F. Kennedy were also keen to involve their allies and followers in every step of the way.

# **Reflection**

If I had the chance to host a leadership workshop, I would like to have the participants start by reflecting on the worthwhile traits demonstrated by people like Lincoln, Kennedy, and Luther. I would request them to self-evaluate and to determine if they apply them while guiding others. In groups of three, everyone would then be required to share views about these attributes. Those who embody them should say if they have found them to be useful or not. Participants who barely ascribe these approaches should let the group members know what other methods they use while steering their followers towards the desired goals. They must also say if those techniques have been beneficial or not.

# **The hypothesis**

My hypothesis is that those who apply the same kind of techniques as did Lincoln, Kennedy, and Luther tend to succeed at a much higher rate than those who do not. For instance, a leader’s proposals are likely to be embraced with ease if they involve their followers right from the beginning. If the views of the latter were solicited, and they are made aware that their suggestions have been incorporated as much as possible, they develop a sense of ownership and perceive the proposition (or plan of action) as their own (Jerri 23). In fact, Robert in Raymond Carver’s *Cathedral: Stories* is depicted as someone who listens (Carver 215-6), and this is not a sign of weakness. Supposing, on the other hand, that the leader made plans by themselves, it takes time and a significant amount of effort to convince the followers that they should embrace those ideas.

# **Conceptualizing leadership based on the successes of Lincoln, Kennedy, and Luther**

An individual like Martin Luther did not have legitimate power. Although he was the most respected civil rights leader in the US, this was not an elected position. Therefore, he had no means of compelling other people to follow him. This was a relationship established purely on a voluntary basis. If by any chance the followers felt disrespected, or if they happened to lose faith in Martin Luther, his influence would have ended rapidly. This could have caused a serious derailment in the Black people’s quest for civil rights. In essence, a good leader has determination, and their words match their actions. They show their followers that the effort is worthwhile, and the greatest rate of success is achieved if these followers have worked closely with the leader right from the beginning. The same phenomenon is illustrated in *Cathedral: Stories*, as Robert and the narrator achieves great success (drew an awesome cathedral) when they start working harmoniously (Carver 214; 218).

Leaders like did Lincoln, Kennedy, and Luther were challenging the status quo. Each of them had a difficult task because in such circumstances, an overwhelming majority of people opt to adhere to the existing state of affairs for the sake of maintaining balance in their communities and the society in general. The views of these three individuals were, therefore, radical; and Martin Luther was actually labeled an extremist even though he emphasized on the need for non-violence. Abraham Lincoln sought to have every American treated with dignity as they deserved, and yet he was assassinated by a zealot (Kendrick and Kendrick 59-60).

Although the views of Lincoln, Kennedy, and Luther seemed to be irrational at first, they managed to persuade enough people to the point where change had to happen. It is apparent that a leader must be visionary. He must be pivot that the followers look up to when in dilemma and in need of guidance. Lincoln had foresight, and he understood that ending slavery was in the best interest of the entire society. Most Americans of the 1860s may not have agreed with him, but it is now apparent that freedom is not just morally right, but also good for the economy. Even at that time, the northern states had prospered a lot faster than the Deep-South (Kendrick and Kendrick 49), and yet people still needed an inspirational leader like Abraham Lincoln to highlight this obvious fact.

Therefore, I would recommend to the participants that vision and boldness are essential to successful leadership. People in positions of influence should not just wait and hope that their followers will read the trends and make informed decisions independently. It may happen in some cases, but the risk is not worth taking. If there is something wrong with the way members of the community are handling their affairs, the leader must find a way to share his concerns and to provide credible solutions to those problems. Anyone who has assumed the position of leadership must never be fearful of suggesting changes in the positive direction.

# **Testing**

Upon sharing the examples of effective leadership based on the lives of Lincoln, Kennedy, and Luther, I would request the participants to regroup. This time though, each one of them would be expected to have a three-column take. On the first column, everyone must have a list of five traits they have been using all along. In the second column, they must have another list of five traits drawn from our discussion. These are the attributes which are presumed to have made Lincoln, Kennedy, and Luther successful in their roles. The last column is for the list of those traits a participants feel would work for them in the future. An example of the table is as shown below:

Table 1: Comparison of traits

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Traits I have been applying before this workshop. | Traits I have learnt from the lives of Lincoln, Kennedy, and Luther. | Traits which I believe will come in handy for me in my future roles. |
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# **Conclusion**

Every participant should then have a short conclusion explaining why they deem their third list to be the attributes which will make them effective as leaders. If the third list is not similar to the traits embodied by of Lincoln, Kennedy, and Luther, one should explain why that is the case. I do, however, believe that after such an inspiring discussion, most participants would prefer completing their responsibilities as the famous leaders did.

**Works Cited**

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