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Lesson 1: Why we are here- 21st century leadership
1/29/2007

Class Summary:

Today's class began with a thorough discussion of the grading format of the news article presentations. It was made clear that an 'A' grade would be achieved if the speaker was generally close to the 3 to 5 minute range, covered their material thoroughly, and effectively tied in the day's topic to the article. After this discussion and subsequent presentations, we began talking about the readings, which dealt with the five characteristics of a global leader. Lastly, a group session identified the similarities and differences between managers and leaders.

Response:

One key opinion about the differences between a manager and leader did not exactly align with my thoughts. The fact that many feel leadership is an innate quality rather than learned is not entirely correct; leaders rise out of certain occasions, but others mature over a period of time that shapes their otherwise dormant leadership skills. Most of the other points discussed in this comparison session agreed with my perceptions.

Analysis:

The main reason I say that all leaders are not born is that I feel everyone in this world has the capability to lead at some point in their life. This goes along with the nurture versus nature view; everyone can lead, but the ones who do tend to grow up in an environment of leaders, or in one which lacks leadership entirely. The leaders of today either learned the traits from their families and peers, or became self-aware that their community had no leader, and it was their time to step up.

Sound-bite:

Managers care about their title and strive to organize, whereas Leaders care about their perception and strive to motivate.