

DISCOVER YOUR AUTHENTIC LEADERSHIP INDIVIDUAL LEADERSHIP JOURNALS

Asked what motivates them to lead, authentic leaders consistently say they find their motivation through understanding their own stories. Their stories enable them to know who they are and to stay focused on their values.

You already have valuable leadership experiences which will prepare and direct you to many other leadership opportunities. It's time now to examine your leadership life stories—How do they represent you? What have you learned from them? How can they prepare you for future experiences?

Directions: For ten weeks, you will keep a leadership journal. Each weekly journal entry (500+ words per entry) may respond to suggested prompts, or you may write on a leadership topic of your choice. Please post your entry on BlackBoard's discussion board for that particular week. At the end of the semester, your leadership journal entries will become a part of your business writing portfolio. Each entry is worth ten points (100 points total).



As you respond, provide specific, concrete examples, incidents, or events to illustrate your focused main ideas. Although these are journal entries, exhibit qualities of good, clear writing. “A good idea deserves a good presentation.”

Week 1—Leaders in Your Life

What leaders, past or present, do you admire most? What is it about them that you admire? Which of these leaders do you consider to be authentic leaders? What can you learn from their leadership?

Week 2—Leaders in the Scriptures

What leaders in the scriptures do you admire most? What is it about them that you admire? Which of these leaders do you consider to be authentic leaders? What can you learn from their leadership?

Week 3—Leaders Losing their Way

Think through the underlying reasons why so many leaders in the recent past or in the scriptures have lost their way and wound up failing as leaders. Have you seen leaders lose their way or worked with someone who fits any archetypes of being an imposter, rationalizer, glory seeker, loner, or shooting star? What are the behaviors and warning signals you have seen in others at risk of losing their way?

Week 4—You as a Leader

Thinking back over all your leadership experiences in your lifetime, which ones are you proudest of? Think about the basis for your leadership and the kind of leader you would like to be as you answer these questions:

- What qualities do you bring to leadership?
- What leadership qualities would you like to develop further?

Week 5—Your Greatest Crucible

Write freely about your greatest crucible or challenge and describe it in the following ways: How did you feel at the time? What resources did you call upon? How did you resolve the issues, if you have? How did it shape you and your views about the world?

Week 6—Your Values

List the values that are important to your life and your leadership. After you have done so, go back and rank them in order of their importance to you. Which of your values are inviolate? Which ones are desirable but not mandatory? Do some of your values depend upon the situation that you are facing?

Recall a situation in which your values were tested under pressure. To what extent did you deviate from your values under that pressure? What resources did you call upon under that pressure? What would you do differently if you had to do it all over again?

Week 7—Your Mentors

Who are the people who have mentored you in your leadership development? Which mentors have been most important in your development as a leader? In what ways have they helped you develop? How have you helped your mentor and built a two-way relationship? What more can you bring to your mentoring relationships?

Week 8—Your Success

How do you measure success in your life right now? What is your personal scorecard? What are the long-term achievements you would like to realize in your life? What will bring you the greatest amount of happiness in your life? What is the positive impact on other that you would like to have?

Week 9—Your Leadership Relationships

Describe the kinds of leadership relationships you have in your family, church, school, or workplace? What kind of leadership relationship do you and your spouse share? What kind of leadership relationship do you have in church? What kind of leadership relationship do you have in school? What kind of relationship do you have with your boss, peers, or subordinates at work? How could you strengthen any of those relationships?

Week 10—Integrating Your Life

Think of your life as a house with a bedroom for your personal life, a library for your school life, a den for your church life, an office for your professional life, a family room for your family, and a living room to share with your friends. Can you knock down the walls between these rooms and be the same person in each of them? Are you able to be the same authentic person in each environment, or do you behave differently at work than you do at home, church, with your friends or in the community?