



Leaders should influence others in such a way that it builds people up, encourages and edifies them so they can duplicate this attitude in others. — Bob Goshen

One of the core values of the Commissioned Corps is **Leadership** with the goal of providing vision and purpose in public health through inspiration, dedication, and loyalty. This tip discusses some misconceptions of leadership and highlights a few fundamental qualities of leadership.

LEADERSHIP MYTHS:

Leading and managing are the same thing: They are not the same. Leaders achieve by influencing people while managers direct by maintaining systems and processes.

Leadership resides in certain positions: Not every figurehead has the ability to connect, inspire, empower, influence, or develop others, which is what leadership is about.

Leadership equates to power and authority: The true test is, if you lose your title and power, does your capability to lead dissipate? Affirmed by Stanley Huffy; it is not the position that makes the leader, it is the leader that makes the position.

Leadership is about results, not people: Leading is about people and helping them achieve results.

Great leaders are born, not made: On the contrary, leaders work hard for the expertise and abilities they acquire while cultivating respectful relationships with those around them.

The most knowledgeable make the best leaders: While information is essential to a leader, knowledge alone will not make someone a leader.

Fundamental Qualities of Leadership

Leadership skills are developed daily. The secret of our success can be found in our daily agendas. Building leadership skills requires regular investment of time. Leaders are committed to lifelong learning.

Vision: A leader without vision is an individual building bridges to nowhere. Experts have affirmed that vision guides the leader; it paints the target. It sparks and fuels the fire within and propels the individual forward.

Character: Adversities are inevitable in life, but it usually presents two options: character or compromise. You emerge as a stronger leader anytime you choose to build character over compromise. Every leader should continuously work on building his or her character.

Commitment: Effective leaders portray high levels of commitment, which inspire and attract people. Your actions are a good measure of your commitment and are telling of how convicted you are to the cause.

Competence: Everyone admires people who are highly competent, which is not an unreachable goal. To cultivate competence, you need to show up every day, keep improving, follow through with excellence, redefine the standards, accomplish more than expected, and inspire others.

Courage: To be an effective leader, it is important to possess the ability to know when to stand up and maintain the conviction to do it. Your dedication to potential must remain stronger than your desire to appease others. Passion also makes ordinary people achieve great things; it increases your will power.

Relationships: Never undervalue the power of relationships on building leadership. Your effectiveness as a leader is bound to suffer if your interpersonal skills are weak.

Servanthood: The best leaders desire to serve others, not themselves; they add value by serving others. To improve your servanthood level, make a conscious effort to perform small acts to show others you care and sign up for opportunities to serve.

REFERENCES: Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service. Mission and Core Values. Accessed on March 3, 2020 from <https://usphs.gov/aboutus/mission.aspx> | Ekaterina Walter. 5 myths of Leadership. Accessed on March 3, 2020 from <https://www.forbes.com/sites/ekaterinawalter/2013/10/08/5-myths-of-leadership/#49f3b087314e> | John C. Maxell. (2007). The 21 irrefutable laws of leadership. Thomas Nelson. | Soundview Executive Book Summaries. (2010). The Complete Summary: The 21 Indispensable qualities of a leader by John Maxwell. Soundview Executive Book Summaries.