**PRM 270: Leadership Essay**

Each student will write an essay describing a **leader they admire who has made (or has great potential to make) positive change**. Your subjective opinion must be supported by objective fact. This means that wherever you give an opinion, you must support that opinion with a referenced fact from one of two possible sources (see references section below). This paper must conform to APA citations and references (see format section below). ***This paper must be submitted via the Blackboard assignment module***.

**Essay Guidelines:**

1. Identify a leader you admire and discuss why you admire this leader and how the leader has made (or has the potential to make) positive change.
2. Identify which leadership theory(ies) this particular leader adheres to and discuss which leadership style(s) this leader most frequently uses.
	1. *It is very important that you distinguish between leadership theory and style to demonstrate your knowledge of these concepts (course Student Learning Outcome [SLO] #1).*
		1. This can be most easily accomplished by using the textbook’s listed leadership theories and styles and choosing with best fits your chosen leader’s description (or situation in which the leader leads)
	2. This should be objective (e.g. use your textbook and one other reference below to both cite and reference particular portions of those texts to identify the above content)

 Leadership Theories: Transactional, Transformational, Servant, Agile & Authentic, Shared, Implicit Leadership Theory (ILT)

 Leadership Styles: Autocratic, Democratic, Laissez-Faire.

1. Examine both your (the student’s) personal leadership theory(ies) and style(s) in comparison to your chosen leader’s leadership theory(ies) and style(s)
	1. *It is very important that this comparison be written in a way that shows your ability to assess your own leadership theory and style through comparison with your chosen leader’s theory and style (course SLO #2)!*
		1. A combination of objective facts (e.g. referenced and cited leadership theories and styles) and your subjective thoughts (e.g. why you feel those leadership theories/styles best fit you or the situations where you lead)

**References:** The essay will require the student to utilize our textbook and at least two other sources. Sources should be cited using APA style. Suggested sources include:

1. Our textbook
2. Another book
3. A professional journal article
4. A reputable website

**Format:** The paper’s structure should…

1. Include a title page, a running header, and a reference page (not included in page length below)
2. Be double-spaced, 1” margins, 12-point, Times New Roman font, 750-1000 words and 3-5 pages long.
3. Formatted using APA style.

• For assistance composing your paper, visit the Writing Center’s website: <http://www.wcu.edu/learn/academic-success/tutoring-services/services-resources/writing-support/index.aspx>

**Leadership Essay: Grading Rubric**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Standard** | **Exceeds Standard (5)** | **Above Standard (4.5)** | **Average (3-4)** | **Below Standard (3)** | **Poor (2)** | **WT** | **Score** |
| **Quality of Introduction** | The introduction clearly identifies chosen leaders and describes rationale for choice with exhaustive overview of paper. | The introduction presents the leader and rationale clearly, and provides a clear and concise overview of paper. | The introduction presents the leader and rationale clearly, but provides a very short overview of paper. | The introduction inadequately introduces the leader and give no rationale for choice. No overview of the paper may be attempted. | The chosen leader and rationale for the choice is not clear from the introduction. No overview of the paper may be attempted. | X 2 |  |
| **Quality of Content** | The content provides exhaustive exemplification of both leader and student’s chosen theory(ies) and style(s). | The content provides clear and concise exemplification of both leader and student’s chosen theory(ies) and style(s). | The content provides some clear exemplification of both leader and student’s chosen theory(ies) and style(s). | The paper does not include all required exemplification of both leader and student’s chosen theory(ies) and style(s). | The paper does not include both leader and student’s chosen theory(ies) and style(s). | X 5 |  |
| **Quality of Summary & Conclusion** | The writer closes the paper with an effective assessment of personal leadership theory(ies)/style(s) through an extensive comparison of chosen leader’s theory(ies)/style(s). | The writer closes the paper with an effective assessment of personal leadership theory(ies)/style(s) through a clear and concise comparison of chosen leader’s theory(ies)/style(s). | The writer closes the paper with a moderately effective assessment of personal leadership theory(ies)/style(s) through a concise comparison of chosen leader’s theory(ies)/style(s). | The writer closes the paper with an inadequate assessment of personal leadership theory(ies)/style(s) with few comparisons of chosen leader’s theory(ies)/style(s). | There is no clear assessment of personal leadership theory(ies)/style(s). Conclusion inadequate. | X 2 |  |
| **Quality of Organization** | The paper flows in a logical, coherent manner with headings and transition sentences and no lapses. | The paper flows in a logical, coherent manner with some headings and transition sentences and only minor lapses. | Most of the paper is logical and coherent although has few headings and transition sentences and at least one major lapse in organization occurs. | The paper is not logically organized with no headings or transition sentences although some meaningful statements are made throughout. | The paper is not logical or coherent. | X 3 |  |
| **Use of sources** | The writer uses the 2 required sources. | The required number of sources is used (2), but they are not the required types. | Fewer than the required number of references are used, but the ones that are used are from scholarly and reputable sources. | The required number of references is not used and several are not from reputable sources. | The writer does not use any reputable sources. | X 3 |  |
| **Format of in-text documentation and bibliography** | All references, citations, and paper formatting are consistently in APA format. | At least one reference or citation is in a nonstandard format. | More than one reference or citation is in a nonstandard or inconsistent format | Several references or citation are in a nonstandard format or one style was not consistently used | The format for documentation was nonstandard and inconsistent | X 1 |  |
| **Prose style, spelling and grammar** | The writing is fluent, with no spelling or grammatical errors | Sentence structure is adequate with few errors in spelling or grammar | Sentence structure is occasionally awkward. Minor errors in usage and/or spelling | Sentence structure is sometimes awkward. Many errors in usage and/or spelling. | Sentence structure is often awkward. Multiple errors in spelling & grammar | X 3 |  |
| **Appearance & format, 750-****1000 words****12” font****double-space****1” margins****saved correctly, submitted correctly in Bb.** | The paper is neat and follows the required format in all aspects | The paper follows the required format in all aspects except in one or two minor ways | The paper does not follow the required format although the appearance is acceptable | The paper departs from the required format and may not be neat | The paper does not follow the required format and is not neat. | X 1 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | **Total Points** | 100 |  |