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Leadership Exploration Essay

Leadership is very visible and poignant. Leadership can make or break a job experience, shape a child's life, and inspire a student; there are many possibilities. The leadership competency within honors provides exploration and promotes growth. Considering leadership experiences in the past calls for reflection and then thoughts on improvement for the future. I think the more individuals look into themselves to learn, reflect, and apply skills within leadership, the better leaders they will be.

Leadership competency, in my opinion, includes much more *involved* experiences. The competency requires students to take initiative, not only join various organizations (development level) but also make an effort to be active and advance within said organizations (application level). Relationship building is a skill that is harmonious, at least in successful leadership. In addition, skills in decision-making, management, and adaptation can be bettered through leadership experience. I think the skills you acquire during leadership are dependent on the conflicts you face and how you choose to overcome them. For example, adaptation can be built if a problem arises.

Personal experience with leadership comes from being a member under a leader in a group and also being a leader myself. Being an involved student, I was able to assess the leaders of my clubs, sports teams, etc. I saw what leadership seemed to be successful among peers, what seemed overbearing, and what leadership seemed too little. In this experience, I learned that to properly assess leadership, you need to also assess the followers and their behaviors. I can assess my past leadership experiences

myself; captain of my sports teams, class president, and trainer at past jobs and see that I have evolved. I have learned to not be too shy, remain assertive, and hear opinions and plans besides my own.

In the future, I would like to take on leadership roles that carry more weight. While roles in my past, in high school, were important in their own right I look forward to focusing in. I would like to adopt leadership roles that relate more to my interest and future professional career. These could be clubs related to youth, special education, etc. I would also like to grow my career into bigger leadership roles. I could go from roles in an individual school to roles in the district, then at a state level.

Informed leaders who reflect and better themselves are important because they impact many more individuals than themselves. Skills developed are broad and come almost directly from experience. I look forward to growing within this competency.