



Unit: Understanding Leadership

Skill 3: Determining Leadership Types and Circumstances

Activity A: Leadership Styles

Activity Skills:

Small group interaction, brainstorming, listening and discussion.

Leadership Skills:

Understanding different leadership styles.

Suggested Level:

Beginning

Time:

30 Minutes

Supplies needed:

- Magazines and newspapers with photos to cut up as examples.
- Pens or pencils to write.

Do Ahead:

Gather magazines and newspapers.

Source:

Developed by:
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Based On:

Six Types of Leaders, The Youth Leadership Institute, Stuart & Hatch-Miller.

BACKGROUND:

People have different styles, so it makes sense that leaders would have different styles as well. These styles often relate strongly to the personality of the individual.

The following 6 types of leadership are defined by the Stuart Model:

- 1) **Democratic** – Skilled at organizing is group, setting clear goals, and encouraging individuals to actively participate; democratic leaders focus on the group goal and accomplishing the goal.
- 2) **Executive** – Exercises power through authority and the power of their position; usually given a leadership role because they can get things done.
- 3) **Authoritative** – Is dominant over other individuals; use their power and influence to gain and keep control.
- 4) **Representative** – Is the spokesperson of a group of individuals; voices the opinion of the group.
- 5) **Intellectual** – Is not interested in attracting a group of followers, but comes forward when the situation requires their knowledge; the opinions and decisions of intellectual leaders tend to be enthusiastically accepted by individuals in the group.
- 6) **Persuasive** – Is the individual who is entertaining and interesting; they have the ability to motivate and excite individuals to become involved and take action.

WHAT TO DO:

Once the six different leadership styles have been reviewed, break out into small groups of 3-5. Ask participants to identify at least one leader they know for each style. Then pass out magazines and newspapers, and ask the groups to find photos or articles that depict the various styles – even photos of people in general can indicate a certain style. Give the groups 10-15 minutes to work on this and then have them regroup and share their examples.

TALK IT OVER:

Reflect:

- For which leadership style did you find the most examples?
- What characteristics lead you to classify someone, or a particular image, as a certain leadership style?

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Notes:

- Do you think certain styles of leaders are more prevalent? Do you know more of a certain style?

Apply:

- Was there ever a time when you used one of these styles?
- Have you ever seen a leader using the *wrong* leadership style?
- What is the result of using a leadership style that doesn't fit the group?

BEYOND THE BOX:

Optional Homework:

Have students investigate some of the various “style” or personality tests out there – Colors Matrixx®, Meyers-Briggs, etc. What do these assessments accomplish and what is the value of knowing your personal leadership style?

Resources And Web Links:

Stuart, Marta Elva and Jeffrey Hatch-Miller. *Six Types of Leaders*, The Youth Leadership Institute. 2nd ed., 1999.