

## Student Activity

# Leadership in Mentoring

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In the video, Desean Maryat describes the ESI Mentoring program at his school as “a chance to do something” and to learn from “young men who have achieved.”

### Consider these Self-Reflection and Discussion Questions:

- Desean says that he no longer wants to do “the wrong thing” that people sometimes invite him to do; instead, the ESI programs at his school inspire him to “want to do better things.” Have you ever been inspired by someone or something to “do better things?” Can you remember when or where you were? What “better things” have you done (or do you envision doing in the future)? What “better things” could you do today?
- In the video, Desean says, “I am not just content... let me try to achieve something higher... it has to get higher for us...we’re going to break the limit, I feel like that’s what we’re learning to do in this school.” What do you think he means by “break the limit?”

## Student Activity

# Learning Leadership

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Some people think that “leaders are born, not made.” However, most experts agree that leadership skills can be taught. As you heard from Desean Maryat in the video, he says that his school’s ESI programs are teaching students leadership skills and showing them by example how to be leaders. Below is a list of several key characteristics that the most effective leaders share, based on dozens of studies conducted by leading researchers. The most effective leaders are:

- Inspirational/Motivational
- Optimistic
- Honest
- Excellent communicators
- Positive role models
- Creative
- Decisive
- Visionary
- Ethical
- Self-confident
- Empowering of their followers
- Excellent at critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Organized and able to set priorities
- Team players/collaborators; gathering input and ideas from their team

1. Which of these characteristics do you feel you have? Circle all that apply.

2. Which of these characteristics would you like to develop? Put a check mark by all that apply. (You can also check those that you feel you have, but would like to develop further.)
  
3. Choose the three qualities that you feel are MOST important for effective leadership. Write them below. Next to each quality, put the name of a leader whom you feel best displays that quality. You can choose from public leaders such as presidents, military leaders and/or CEOs of companies, as well as leaders you know personally, such as team captains, school principals and/or class leaders.

Leadership Quality:

What Leader Has This Quality?

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4. Describe a time when the leader displayed the quality you associated with him/her above. You can describe a time that saw yourself, or a situation that you read about in a textbook or in the media, or heard about from someone who was there.

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*“Outstanding leaders go out of their way to boost the self-esteem of their team. If people believe in themselves, it's amazing what they can accomplish.” -- Sam Walton, founder of WalMart*