



EduTrend Contents

P4C · POWER AND LEADERSHIP · MIDDLE SCHOOL

What Makes a Good Leader?

Qualities, power and responsibility

Ages 11–13

Level: Intermediate

50 minutes

Circle and small groups
· up to 30

Activity 03

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 student worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 03 · AT A GLANCE

What Makes a Good Leader?

Students read invented profiles of four team captains: one is the best player, one is kind to everyone, one makes tough decisions and one is very popular. They rank qualities such as honesty, courage, fairness, listening, vision and strength. They create questions and enquire into what makes a good leader and whether leaders are born or made.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session students can:

- rank and justify leadership qualities;
- analyse cases;
- reason about power and responsibility;
- respect different views.

KEY WORDS

leader · quality · power ·
responsibility · trust · vision

CURRICULUM LINKS

PSHE: leadership. History: leaders past and present. PE: team captains.

1	2	3	4	5	6
STIMULUS	THINK	QUESTION	ENQUIRE	BUILD	REFLECT
Share something to think about	Quiet thinking time	Create and choose a question	Reason together	Agree, disagree, add	Last words

Materials (per class)

- Captain profile cards
- Quality cards
- Question and thinking-move cards
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Read the stimulus and note possible concepts.
- Prepare question and thinking-move cards.
- Set out a circle so everyone can see each other.
- Print the worksheets.

SAFETY

Everyone may pass. Discuss ideas, not people, and use the story or invented examples rather than personal situations.

ACTIVITY 03 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Stay neutral: ask for reasons, examples and counter-examples rather than giving your own view.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–8 min Stimulus	Share the captain profiles and quality cards.	<i>"What did you notice?"</i>
8–20 min Questions	Students create questions in pairs and vote on one.	<i>"Which question is most interesting to talk about?"</i>
20–44 min Enquiry	Enquire into the chosen question, building on each other's ideas.	<i>"What makes a good leader?"</i>
44–50 min Last words	Each person says one last thought or passes.	<i>"Has your thinking changed?"</i>

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Defend your top three leadership qualities.

ACTIVITY 03 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

Many philosophers link good leadership with virtues such as justice, wisdom and courage.

The question of whether leaders are born or made is still debated.

Common ideas to listen for

- “The most popular person is the best leader.”
Popularity differs from leadership.
- “Leaders must be loud.” Quiet people can lead.
- “Leadership is only about power.” It involves responsibility.

Adapting the activity

Support

Rank four qualities.

Stretch

Write a job description for a class leader.

WORKSHEET 1

Quality ranking

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Rank.

Quality ranking

Rank	Quality	Why

WORKSHEET 2

Thinking moves

Use these in the enquiry.

Thinking moves

Thinking move	My example
I agree with... because...	
I disagree with... because...	
An example is...	
A counter-example is...	
Building on what... said...	

WORKSHEET 3

Last words

Before and after.

Are leaders born or made? Before the enquiry I thought... Now I think... because...

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight students; copy as needed.

Student	Asks a philosophical question	Gives reasons and examples	Listens and builds on others

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

What Makes a Good Leader? is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Power and Leadership programme (middle school, level: intermediate). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

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