

## THE VISION ASSIGNMENT

**Introduction:** As we begin to redefine the leadership direction that we take, we must ask important questions such as: What are the experiences that are needed to nurture leadership? How do we develop responsible leadership as well as empower and mentor our future leaders? How do we train leaders to project into the future and stay focused on their vision?

**The Vision – A Graphic Representation:** This assignment provides an opportunity for future leaders to learn to be visionary, become risk-takers, and break away from the old paradigm to make positive changes. Through this work qualities and skills are gained for a strong foundation of leadership: relentless drive to improve education, a deep sense of integrity and inner strength, and the ability to initiate a dynamic interchange of ideas with others dedicated to a common mission and philosophy.

**Value:** This assignment, which becomes part of the PowerPoint policy briefing and final strategy paper is worth 10 points. Together, the graphic representation of your vision, the PowerPoint briefing/presentation and final paper are worth 50 points towards the final grade for the class.

**Designing Visionary Paradigms:** Students have the opportunity to design innovative and creative educational paradigms to assist with reform initiatives for improving leadership in a global community. The design of visionary paradigms can be from any fields of endeavor: academia, business, law enforcement, the military, as well as political, governmental and civic sector.

**Major Components:** The following major components of leadership promoting futuristic leadership should be an integral part of any instructional paradigm—ethical, interdisciplinary, and/or international leadership:

1. Ethical Leadership: Preparing future leaders to (a) understand ethical leadership through shared decision-making in a democratic setting, (b) understand the need for bottom-up educational reform to enhance creative and innovative approaches to meet tomorrow's challenges, and (c) understand the skills involved in mentoring and investing in future leadership,
2. Interdisciplinary Leadership: Preparing visionary educational leaders for establishing programs which focus on leadership as a sharing process involving all community members in an interdisciplinary setting.
3. International Leadership: Promoting outreach initiatives intended for increasing mutual understanding between nations. International initiatives strengthen the ties which unite us by demonstrating educational and cultural interests, development, and our collective achievements.

**A New Brand of Leadership:** There is a belief among various authorities that we have too many managers. Not enough leaders. Hence, this assignment is intended to inspire future leaders to become their own leaders--not simply to follow, but to ask questions, challenge authority, defy orthodoxy, and lead lives of integrity. Students are encouraged to become focused and passionate in guiding instructional programs.

Remember, as you develop a graphic depicting your vision for the future it will become part of your PowerPoint Briefing and then the first Appendix to your final Policy/Strategic paper. This sketch will become the focus as you write your final Strategy Paper.

Examples of educational paradigms can be found on the CEPA Website:

<http://www.cepa2000.org/about.html>