

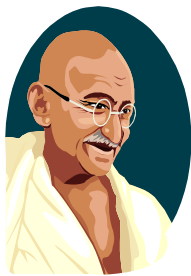
# Electronic Portfolio / Leadership

EMA 350 – Professor Rodriguez

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April 30, 2010

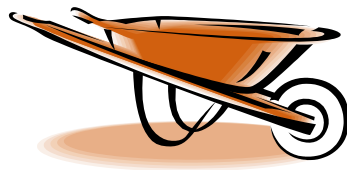
Leadership is a quality that should be admired and well thought of. In every individual's life, they should strive at least one time to become a leader. Leaders are made everyday, regardless of situation or happenstance. Many people don't view themselves as leaders because they want nothing to do with that type of responsibility and accountability. Is there any reason to blame those people who don't want to take on the leadership role? There are just some people who don't fit the leadership role and sadly never will. In my opinion, everyone should have a leadership role put in front of them, and they should take that role on with a smile on their face, a positive attitude in their mind, and a hard work ethic that allows them to accomplish the goal they are facing. In my life, I have experienced many situations where leadership has played a key role in the success of those situations either through my own leadership qualities or of others who were involved. In this electronic portfolio I will share personal experiences that involve leadership attributes and how those characteristics have lead to successful outcomes. All of the instances that I will mention have occurred either in the past, present, or hopefully in the near future. Here are some leaders that you might remember.



## Entry 1 – Missions Work in Juarez, Mexico / June, 2003

The first example of leadership that I would like to share took place back in 2003 when I was a junior in High School. I was given the opportunity to travel down to Juarez, Mexico to help plan and construct houses for the impoverished people of a small area. We stayed there for about a week to help build these small huts, which pale in comparison to what we Americans live in everyday. The group that I was traveling and working with was that of my own youth group from the Grants Church of Christ in Grants, New Mexico. When we got down to our working site, they pulled a fast one on us and divided our group and mixed us with other youth groups from different congregations. I wasn't really surprised at this, seeing as they wanted everyone from all of the different youth groups working together. However, the group that I was placed with really didn't know anything about manual labor. I mean they had never used a hammer, sawed a piece of wood with a handsaw, or even used a tape measure to take measurements. I was honestly shocked by their lack of workmanship and having no knowledge of what to do in this sort of situation. I viewed this as a great opportunity to take charge of the situation at hand since I was raised with a hard work ethic and had great knowledge of manual labor. I think of myself as a lucky individual because I had a father who taught me the value of hard work, and when put to use in the right context, that hard work will pay off. Immediately, I started taking control of this situation by taking on the leadership role of manager or foreman. The crew I was working with was fun to work with because even though they didn't know one thing about construction, they were eager to learn as much as possible. I taught everyone what they needed to know about every hand tool that was at our disposal. From there, I gave each person a task or objective that they were to complete by the end of each day. While they spent the day working on these individual or group tasks, I would walk around monitoring their progress, helping, and

answering questions as needed. By the end of the week, our group was the first one finished with our house and for the entire length of the week our team worked well without any sort of conflict, which I thought was part of our timely success. This example goes to show that working cooperatively and having a shared goal or vision is very important for a successful outcome. I have to admit that I wasn't really ready for that type of responsibility, but when it was put in my path, I couldn't avoid it and I'm glad I didn't.



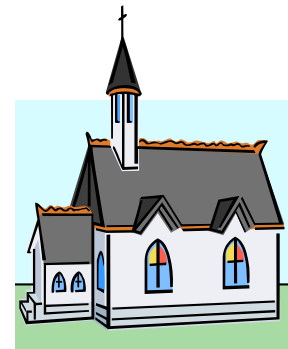
## Entry 2 – Inspiration in Athletic Settings

The next situation that involved and demonstrated great leadership characteristics took place in my senior year of high school in the year of 2004. It happened during my last football season, and if I remember correctly it was a very important game, which decided whether we would make the playoffs. For my entire high school football career, we had a coach who helped get us pumped up before every game by leading us in an inspirational speech, where he would say a few lines, we would reciprocate with a corresponding line, and this would inspire us to play to our potential. It was a great feeling he bestowed upon us; it helped us forget about our worries, get the adrenaline flowing, and allowed us to go out on that field and take down the opposition. The problem arose for us that night because that very same coach wasn't able to attend that game, and therefore the awe-inspiring speech wasn't going to be made. Luckily, for the sake of the team, one of my best friends and captain of the team stepped up for the missing coach and gave the speech for him, and I have to say that it had every ounce of feeling and swagger behind it as it always did when the coach performed it. It got the fluids flowing and the adrenaline pumping, and the end result helped us win that game. Now that I am reflecting back on this memory, I would say positively that without the replacement leadership demonstrated by my friend, then we would not have prevailed that night and won that very important game.



### Entry 3 – Leadership within My Church Congregation

One of the most recent acts of leadership that I have come in contact with took place just this last year in 2009. The congregation that I am a part of had recently lost their pastor, a bright young man who was very spiritual and religious in nature; he was just a great young guy to be around and have fellowship with. When he left, a lot of the church family lost their way and felt like they were abandoned. I did notice that a few of the families stopped coming to the church when he left. I guess they just didn't feel the same without him, which I suppose is understandable, because they lost the one person they were willing to follow in order to feel closer to their Lord and Savior. After this loss had occurred, a few months went by and the elders of the church started looking for someone to fill the position of pastor. A couple of applicants came through and finally one was chosen, another young man who had similar values, beliefs, and characteristics as the man before him. This new pastor stepped into some giant shoes by filling the role, and to this day I am happy to report that he has done a phenomenal job. The way he leads the church gives us new direction and purpose. With his leadership capabilities, I know that our congregation will have a very bright future.



## Entry 4 – Future Aspirations for Leadership

The last point of leadership values that I would like to address is that of the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America Foundation. Although I've never been or taken part in this operation, I have seen its benefits through watching close friends of mine participate with the program. It gave me great enjoyment to watch them interact with these disadvantaged children. The people who devote their precious time and energy to be involved with this organization are themselves great leaders. They have every quality that a leader needs to affect great change in someone's life: providing admirable role models; directing young lives in appropriate activities; counseling during tough times or challenging situations; and helping youth to view life's ups and downs in realistic and hopeful ways. As part of my future attempts at being a visionary leader of the future I hope to enroll myself and become affiliated with this program, and in doing so, I can possibly affect the life of perhaps a future leader of our great nation.



## Last Entry in Portfolio

It is my firm belief that virtually every challenge, situation, or opportunity can be met more effectively through the leadership of people who are willing to accept leadership roles, look for ways to optimize their particular set of skills, and then implement those skills and talents to achieve common goals while in the service of others. I hope to be that kind of leader, regardless of where or how I might be called upon to lead.

I hope you all deeply enjoy reading my electronic portfolio!

