

The articles “Securing the Right to Learn,” and “Prison in Crisis” depict a much different story than that of Chapter 1 & 2. The article “Prison in Crisis” describes the overcrowding prisons in California. “Securing the Right to Learn” describes the ongoing struggle that underprivileged students are facing in America today. The obvious lack of leadership in these two articles is to blame.

In chapter one, Kouzes & Posner explain the importance of leadership. Chapter one describes the five practices of exemplary leadership: model the way, inspire a shared vision, challenge the Process, enable others to act, and encourage the heart. Chapter two explains what people find most import in a leader: honesty, forward-looking, inspiring, competent, and someone who has been constant over time.

As seen in “Securing the Right to Learn,” there are many barriers to learning. There is an obvious lack of leadership among these poorer communities. These kids, from an early age, don’t get the privileges that other richer communities do. First off, these poorer schools don’t have the efficient funds to get the proper material needed for learning. Students are using twenty year old text books in classes too large to properly function. Because these students aren’t getting the right resources and attention, dropout rates continue. Many teachers for these facilities are uncertified and unqualified for meeting every student’s needs.

In the “Prison in Crisis” article, an overcrowding prison system has led to chaotic spending just to feed the needs for all the prisoners. Judges no longer want to run these prisons, but are worried that the prisons’ conditions will worsen and spiral out of control. With so many prisoners, many are worried that too much funding is being wasted on these facilities. Many want solutions to these problems, but lack of leadership has caused these conditions to worsen.

Using the rules for Chapter 1 & 2 could drastically change both the problems seen in the educational system and prison system. First off, finding more equipped teachers could lead many of these lost students to success. As seen in chapter 1, leadership is contagious. It just takes one big step in the right direction to lead others on a road to success. Those who model the way will inspire the students and communities. The schools much challenge the process; find a way to get the funds and material needed for every student. After following these rules, it will enable others to act, and encourage the heart. The same steps used in Chapter can change the lives of many people.

The prisons must find leaders who can manage and resolve the problems; look for other solutions to the problems. The leaders must be honest, look forward to the future of the prisons, inspiring, competent, and one who stays constant over time. Finding leaders who can find what works and doesn’t work in the prison system can look for other outside answers and solutions. Through the resources in chapter one, the problems faced in both articles can be solved. It just takes strong, inspiring, and honest leaders to resolve these problems and lead the way to success.