

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.

What makes a good leader? Most would agree that a leader must exhibit the following traits: visionary, orderly, and honest. However, when does one become a leader? Are these visionaries born, or are they made? After reading and viewing the following material, I feel that leaders are made. These leaders see a vision and dedicate their lives to make a change. With this, they gain the trust of others, and people follow in their vision. It is in this, that leaders are made. Inspiration is the true key to leadership.

Chapter three discusses the qualities many leaders have all shared; they all were passionate about their causes. People trust those who follow through with their ideas and passions. A person, who sticks up for what they believe in, sets a good example of leadership. However, there is a catch. This leader must exhibit knowledge of their beliefs. A cause is not worth fighting for, if you don't know why you're fighting for it. If the leaders are honest, people will follow.

Chapter four, contests the importance of setting an example. For those working to becoming leaders, they must work hard and set an example for their peers. Chapter four explains that a leader must "personify the shared values and teach others to model the values." This means a leader must personally evaluate the vision. They must do what needs to be done first, before they show others. One who fulfills the needs of a vision and shows others the way, will be a successful leader. You cannot simply inspire people, when no example is shown first.

In the article *Futuristic Leadership in a Global Community*, new ideas of leadership are evaluated. The article discusses leadership among schools. The administrators of the schools are using old ways of thinking when it comes to leadership. Because each school differs, there is a concern that "normal" leadership training among schools is not enough. The principal, who runs a school, is looked at as the leader. The principal is assigned to make decisions for the school on behalf of the school. However, as argued in the article, new ideas of leadership should be considered. Uniting the school, as a team, to make decisions would be more beneficial. As mentioned in the article, this would influence a "shared vision." In the article, the idea of the team being as one, results in a stronger result.

Both videos examine the role a leader plays. Video one asks the question, "Are leaders born, or made?" In the video examples like Gandhi and Bill Gates are shown. Both, sons of lawyers, grew up to be influential leaders looked at globally today. Instead of following in the footsteps of their fathers, they set on ventures of their own. They each had a vision of their own, and through that, changed the world. This shows how leaders are made. Video two's clip explains the importance of leadership. The commander tells this captain of the importance he plays among his men. This captain must be set the example for his men to follow, even in times of hardship. Through this example, he will lead.

There are many leaders and visionaries I look up to today. One that I find to be inspirational to me is Eva Peron (Evita). When she was young, she had goals of becoming an actress. It wasn't until her marriage that she became involved with the government of Argentina. It was then that she created a vision; a vision to fight for labor rights of workers and fight for woman's suffrage. She influenced a nation, and through that, helped the labor workers and influenced woman's' rights. It is through people like her, that leaders are made.