Michel'Le Gallegos The Challenge of Leadership April 3, 2010

The chapters three and four, the video clips one and two on leadership traits, and the articles "what's trust got to do with it" and "Futuristic leadership in a global community" are all connected. They all have major ideas that are similar to one another. The most important thing in common is leadership.

In chapter three, it discusses the values of becoming a leader. "You have to open your heart...you have to be able to be honest with yourself in order to be honest with others." People need to know that they can trust their leaders and in order for a leader to gain trust, they must clarify their values, which include two essentials: 1) find your voice--connect ones voice to ones touch and 2) Affirm shared values. Values can influence every aspect in people's lives; serve as a guide to action, and motivation. They are also empowering. Personal values also drive commitment in leaders. "To become a credible leader you have to learn to express yourself in ways that are uniquely your own." You have to speak for yourself and not copy other people's words. You are free to choose what you want to express and the way you want to express it. Sharing the values of leaders can and will make a difference.

In chapter four, in order for leaders to show that they are passionately committed, they need to set the example. "Leading by example is how leaders make visions and values tangible". In order to set the example, leaders need to: 1) personify the shared values and 2) teach others to model the values. Setting an example means showing that you care about what you are willing to do. If you can talk the walk, walk the talk as well. Leaders know the power of words and understand and are attentive to language. Language helps build the frame around the world and it is essential for leaders to choose their choice of words carefully.

In the video clip one, it shows leaders from history in the past. For example: Ghandi, Abraham Lincoln, Bill Gates, etc. An interesting question that came up was, are leaders born? Or made? The key to this question is that it takes dedication, vision, and a desire to lead and you will find a way to become a leader. In the second video clip, it showed a submarine captain struggling with showing his leadership and needed to improve it. In order to be a leader, you do not hesitate, but act. You make hard decisions based on imperfect information. And if you are wrong, you will have to suffer the consequences.

In the article, "what's trust got to do with it?", it tells how leadership can be developed. One way is through empowerment. Empowerment is a set of organizational and behavioral practices and programs. It is the vesting of decision making and it allows self managing teams to be in charge of their own career destinies. Empowerment is willing to adopt trust to make partners that are meaningful to one another. Another way is through ethical leadership which involves commitment that includes responsibility. An example would be the transformation of the army, because it exploited competitive advantages, quality of people, advanced technology, and education also increases. An example of increased education would be Fort Riley University, because it is integrated and prepares visionary leaders and establishes programs which focus on leadership and a sharing process.

I think that leaders are born because I don't think that it is possible to make yourself become a leader unless it is a passion to lead. No one chose leaders from the past, their leadership chooses them. They are born as special people who change the world. There are many that changed the world, and only a few changed themselves. I have watched our own president, Barack Obama, become a leader for many people. He is good at what he does because he likes his job. Your passion for doing something chooses you, you can't choose it.