

APA Style Sixth Edition Template: Personal Development Paper

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Merriam-Webster defines leadership as the office or position of a leader, or the act or instance of leading [ CITATION Mer161 \l 1033 ] . Most people have the desire to lead however, do not know or understand the price of leadership. A mark of a true leader, is depended upon his or her desire to grow and develop. This is not an overnight process but one that happens over a lifetime. For effective leadership a personal development plan is needed and the following components must be addressed: leadership development, ministry philosophy, training mechanisms, discipline, books for development, and mentors

## **Leadership Development**

J. Robert Clinton defines leadership development as a leader's changing capacity to influence, in terms of various factors, over time; also, used to indicate the actual patterns, processes, and principles that summarize development [ CITATION DrJ98 \l 1033 ]. According to Harvard business Weekly leadership development is defined as how a leader succeeds and fails based on opportunities and constraints [ CITATION Mar10 \l 1033 ]. Although both did a great job at defining leadership development, I feel that Clinton has done a better job with diving into greater view of what true leadership development is about. While the Harvard Business Weekly merely skims the surface.

### **Ministry Philosophy**

Ministry philosophy as defined by Clinton is a technical term in leadership development theory that refers to ideas values and principles, weather implicit or explicit, that the leader uses as guidelines for decision-making, exercising influence or evaluating his ministry [ CITATION DrJ98 \l 1033 ], Based upon this definition my ministry philosophy is, "that I must live a life that is distinct; distinct in my character, my influence, my approach to conflict, my relationships and reactions. Leadership development supports this philosophy because as I submit to the development process God in his sovereignty will continue to mold and shape me. Also, through this process I will learn principles that create me to become distinct as God is coming me to be.

### **Training Mechanisms**

The training mechanisms for leadership development that I find to be of extreme importance is that of coaching and mentoring. A leader must be coached and have mentors. Continuous coaching is needed for all those in leadership roles or those who desire to be leaders,

as the provides wisdom and helps to develop skillsets. John Maxwell defines a mentor as someone who teaches, guides and lifts you up by virtue of his or her experience and insight [ CITATION Joh08 \l 1033 ]. In my current stage in leadership, I find peer to peer mentorship to be very effective, as I am provided with accountability partners, as well as individuals who have similarities to be and understand my current journey. I strongly believe that the mentor mentee relationship is important as well and it is like the coaching component, however the mentor continues to sow seeds of knowledge and experience into the mentees life, and has a more personal relationship. I believe that my mentors support my leadership develop goals because we are on similar paths.

### **Discipline**

The next essential component needed for a successful personal development plan is the leader must be disciplined. To be disciplined means that you have developed a consist process. This consistency is not just important for the leader, but I feel that it is important for those who observe the leader for additional ministry opportunities. I strongly believe that God desires this discipline as well, as we exhibit discipline or a lack of discipline, God then determines our graduation or reenrollment of ministry task and or stages of our leadership journey. Because it is through discipline that faithfulness is shown. Clinton strongly supports the important of discipline. He states that “the lack of physical discipline is often as indicator of laxity in the spiritual life as well”[ CITATION DrJ98 \l 1033 ]. We can even see this in the writings of Paul in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 when he says, I am serious about finishing well in my Christian ministry. I discipline myself for fear that after challenging others into the Christian life I myself might become a casualty.

### **Books I’m Reading**

During this stage of my leadership development I am currently reading *The Making of a Leader* by Dr. J. Robert Clinton and *Visioneering* by Andy Stanley. Both books have not only helped in my process, they have allowed me to see areas of strengths and weaknesses that I possess. I have however found myself being inconsistent with reading material outside of textboxes. My goal is to read a book that helps me development maturely and stimulate growth in the areas where I suffer as a leader.

### **Mentor**

My mentor is Korey Tucker, this mentorship is peer to peer. This has been a health mentor mentee relationship as we have several of the same interest. Our future goals are similar, as we both desires to teach. Our peer to peer relationship brings us both strength and encouragement.

### **References**

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