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Dr. Anna Patton  
SLC 101

### Leadership Self-Assessment

After completing the reading, I have a better understanding of what it truly means to be a relational leader. There are plenty of components that come along with being a relational leader, but the most important are five concepts: purpose, inclusion, empowerment, ethics, and process-orientation. Once you take a look at these terms, you gain the apprehension that a leader is not effective unless they have the support of their team and that they all share the same beliefs or values. Personally, I agree completely with the concepts and ideas that go behind the relational leadership model, but I have to make sure that I am applying them. Once I completed the self-assessment in class, I realized that I know what it takes to be an efficacious relational leader, but it does not benefit my community if I do not put them to practice. With more exposure to leadership opportunities, I know that I will strengthen my ability to lead a community and enhance my understanding of what it means to have an impact on the world around me.

Each one of the five main components of relational leadership plays an imperative role. Purpose shows others in the community that you are not doing your service for just a result, but you are there to fulfill your values and beliefs. Once others are able to realize that you are there to honestly there to make a difference and work towards a change, they will be more receptive to helping you achieve your cause. Inclusion is making sure that everyone in your community is involved in the process and heard. Everyone wants to make sure that their voices and perspectives are seen by others. Empowerment gives everyone in the group a sense of purpose and importance. Empowerment gives everyone in the community the idea that their talents and collaboration in the project will benefit not only the organization but also show them that they

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are an important part of the team. Ethics is the practice of making “right” decisions and making them based on your beliefs and morals. Along with ethics, a leader will make decisions based on what they believe will be best for the organization and for themselves. Process-orientation is where the group finds a way to remain a group and how they are working toward completing their goals. The process in which a group works towards accomplishing their goals is just as imperative to what their goals and visions are and how they are perceived by others. When combined, these five concepts are how to be an effective relational leader. Once a leader applies these five concepts, they are sure to have an impact on their community and their organization.

As for myself, I am more confident in the areas of ethics and inclusion, but I need to work towards being more empowering, focusing on the process, and knowing the purpose of our group. Every day, I work towards meeting new people and working with a variety of diverse people just so that I am able to know that it is like to work with these people and to get a different perspective from individuals that are different from myself. Once you include this diverse group of individuals who have bright ideas, you are able to create these brilliant ideas that would have never come to play if you did not include them in the conversation. Another concept that I am confident in is ethics. Daily, we make decisions based on what we consider to be right and wrong. For an organization, you have to do what will be worthwhile for the group and this is based on what you and others think will bring great success for everyone. On the other hand, I have to make sure that I am empowering others around me. I have to work toward ensuring that I am giving them feedback that will better our overall relationship and their confidence in themselves to do such incredible things. I also have to be aware of the words that I

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use to describe my team. I should to use words that suggest that we are working alongside each other rather than they are working for me. I have to work toward making sure that the process I take to complete my vision and goals is the most efficient and conscientious path for our group to take. As the semester continues on, I am sure opportunities will arise that will allow me to improve upon these concepts and fully become the relational leader that I can be.

Being in the Impact Leadership Village is a one-way ticket to becoming the greatest relational leader that will benefit not just me but also my community. Being in the village, I have already learned what it means to be a leader and the steps I need to take in order to be effective. I've learned to be a leader who does not just work towards completing a goal or vision but making a lasting impact on the world around me. In the village, we learn that everything we do has a purpose whether we talk about it or not. We take advantage of different events and volunteering opportunities that will have some sort of impact on our group, community, and ourselves. The SLC 101 course will give us the tools and knowledge we need to have in order to apply these concepts. The course will have me reflect on how I have grown over the course of the semester in becoming better than a traditional leader. At the end of the course, the service action proposal will be my chance to execute all that I have refined on being a relational leader. The service proposal will be my chance to make an impact on something that I am truly passionate about and work towards making a change in our community. At the end of the semester, I am honestly excited to see who I will transform into and see what I am capable of implementing in order to create a lasting impact.