

# THE STUDENT LEADER CHECK-UP

## 1. How and where do I have influence?

*Influence - not position or power - makes a student leader successful.*

1. What is my current level of influence at school or work?
2. How often do others turn to me for direction or approval?
3. Do I see evidence of my influence with those whom I work for and those who work for me?
4. Who influences me and how?

*Remember, we often adopt both the strengths and weaknesses of those around us, so make sure you are not being influenced in a way that leads you away from your goals.*

5. In what new arenas can I extend my influence?

*It may be a new club or cause, a new partnership or alliance, or a new group of friends or coworkers.*

## 2. Where can I improve my people skills?

*Someone can lead for a season based on position or problem-solving ability, but success in the long run depends on the ability to get along with and develop people.*

1. How can I improve my listening skills?
2. How can I discover what motivates those whom I lead?
3. Am I willing to ask more questions and get more input from others?

## 3. Do I have a positive outlook?

*A positive attitude alone doesn't identify a capacity for student leadership, but a negative spirit will always diminish a person's leadership potential. The ability to master my own emotions gives me a sizeable advantage during crisis situations. Never forget that a crisis situation is precisely when leadership is most noticed and valued.*

1. When am I most tempted to display a bad attitude?
2. Who do I know that has a negative outlook? Do I allow them to influence me?
3. What kinds of strategies can I implement when I'm tempted to become negative?

## 4. Do I see evidence of growth in self-discipline?

1. Am I disciplined in my use of time?
2. Do I willingly delay gratification in order to achieve worthwhile goals?
3. Are there any evidences of lack of self-discipline in my appearance or work habits?

## **5. Do I have a proven track record of success as a student leader?**

*Busyness is not an accurate indicator of success. Some people work like crazy and never accomplish anything. Past success is a key predictor of future success.*

1. What have I accomplished that I am proud of?
2. Did those accomplishments include others?
3. How does my experience relate to what I need today?
4. Am I willing to put forth the effort again?

## **6. How are my problem-solving skills?**

*Many people are impressed with their ability to spot a problem. Identifying a problem is easy; just about anyone can do it. Student leaders must solve problems. In fact, where there are no problems, there is no need for leadership. Problem solvers don't dwell on what went wrong or who was to blame. Instead, they spend their energies on finding a solution.*

1. When I encounter a problem, do I think of solutions or excuses?
2. Do people approach me when they need help solving a problem?
3. What techniques/strategies have I developed to solve problems?

## **7. Do I refuse to accept the status quo?**

*Growing leaders value progress over security. Not only are they dissatisfied with what is; they have a vision for what can be. The person who resists the status quo is willing to take a risk, be different, and pay the price for victory.*

1. In what areas do I feel the need to challenge the process?
2. Where am I most dissatisfied with life?
3. When was the last time I took a risk?

## **8. Do I have a big-picture mindset?**

*How often do you step back to maintain perspective, especially in the face of distractions or pressure? Keeping a sense of direction when the fog of fatigue sets in is a trait of a gifted leader.*

1. When am I most tempted to just live from event to event?
2. What sort of reminders do I have in place to keep me mindful of the big picture?
3. Who is someone who keeps me accountable for maintaining a view of the big picture?