

Sources for Lead Self
(Dalhousie University)

1. One of the biggest challenges current and future leaders face is to be able to "lead themselves" before going out and attempting to lead others. Being grounded and as clear as possible on your own values, preferences, ways of working and communicating with others and ways of doing things, especially in times of stress and pressure, is a vital first step to becoming an effective leader.

<http://www.dal.ca/faculty/cce/programs/leadership/courses/personal-leadership-leading-the-self-before-leading-others.html>

Leading Self

“There is a person with whom you spend more time than any other, a person who has more influence over you, and more ability to interfere with or to support your growth than anyone else. This ever-present companion is your own self. “Dr. Pamela Butler, Clinical Psychologist, Self-leadership is been defined as “the process” of influencing oneself to establish the self-direction and self-motivation needed to perform.

Leadership begins with yourself. If you can’t lead you, you can’t lead anyone else.

- It’s the foundation for leadership
- It’s not flashy
- It doesn’t get much attention or affirmation
- Self-leadership is the hard work behind the scenes that prepares you for greater leadership

Tough Truths:

- From a human perspective, no one else cares more about your personal development than you do
- You can’t wait for someone else to lead you
- No one else owes you leadership
- No one else is responsible for your leadership development

Core elements of developing self-leadership:

Character

- Who you are when no one is looking
- Spiritual health
- Emotional health
- Expect more from yourself than others do

- What qualities do you want to be true about your character? Pursue the development of them

Discipline

- Set goals – personal, professional, family, fun
- Take initiative
- “Leaders are readers”; Read ferociously
- Be a lifelong learner, and be a fanatic about it. Surround yourself with mentors and people smarter than you. Seek to be continually inspired by something, learning what your triggers are

Self-awareness

- Know your strengths & weaknesses
- Seek counsel
- Identify mentors
- Always evaluate what you need to “own” (good or bad) in every situation

You create most of your opportunities by the choices you make in leading yourself.