

Training Session 6

To be a Peer-Mediator is to be a Leader

Purpose:

- To better understand the characteristics of a leader and to get a picture of the qualities that make up respected leaders.
- To put peer-mediation in a leadership context so that the participants begin to see themselves as leaders in their schools/communities.

Length: 30 - 45 minutes

Materials: flipchart, markers

Procedure:

1. Ask the participants "If you could sit down for a cup of coffee with any leader from any period in history, man or woman, real or fictional, political, cultural, social, personal, spiritual, etc., who would it be, and why?"
2. As the participants go around the circle, as each one to try and elaborate on what it is exactly that makes the person they chose a leader: What qualities do/did they possess? What behavior do/did they exhibit? Were they chosen, or did they become leaders because of certain circumstances? As they answer, write down the key words and phrases that you hear on the flipchart/whiteboard.
3. Further questions for discussion:
 - What kinds of leaders are there? What types of leadership styles? (Formal - autocratic/authoritarian, democratic/participatory, inherited; Non Formal – teachers, artists, managers, parents etc.)
 - What is the difference between positive leadership and negative leadership? Is there such a thing? How can we know if someone is a positive or a negative leader?
 - Are leaders born or molded? Can the traits that we identified be learned and acquired, or does one have to be born with them? Can we all be leaders?
 - How do you see yourselves as leaders? How can peer-mediators be meaningful leaders in your schools/communities?

