

Atharva Biyani

YLDP Essay

### The Importance of Authentic Leadership

Imagine a world with no leaders. The workplace would be chaotic with unorganized messes everywhere. The world needs leaders that can implement a positive change. This is where authenticity comes in. Sometimes leaders are financially orientated and don't care about the wellbeing of others around them. I believe an authentic leader is a better leader than a financially orientated leader because it leads to many benefits like better relationships with colleagues and higher levels of trust. Also, this better connection with others can lead to more productivity and a more positive working environment. One of the characteristics that an authentic leader should have is to be committed to bettering themselves. Investing in oneself can cultivate self-awareness which is one of the most important traits a leader can possess. Being mission driven is also important because having a commitment to a mission can show the purpose behind what a leader has worked towards.

When I got to volunteer at the dental office, I learned a lot about what it takes to run a business while engaging the employees to carry out efficient and productive work. The skills necessary to motivate people to work towards a higher goal is one of the strongest traits one can have. Being goal driven and not doing things just for the money but for the outcome that something can have on the world, can lead to a better leader overall. I got to witness the front end and back end of a successful business that used authentic leadership as a means to help people with their dental goals. I have also volunteered at places like vegan festivals before and seeing the amount of work it takes was truly eye-opening. We did not have much time to put up all the stalls and we all had to show our leadership and step in when the time was needed. My team ended up finishing all of the stalls and completing all the work earlier than expected with better results. A leader should be able to show teamwork and work with followers. When people work with an authentic leader, they will often give their whole hearts and minds to the cause. That is why it is so important to work with others because that trust and loyalty rises which can lead to extraordinary results. If my team did not build trust and loyalty, we would have never worked together to get the whole festival set up. I believe an authentic leader also creates an environment where their values are known, and they are willing to be held accountable for their actions. This is called being transparent and it is a very respectable trait to have.

The deeper connections that authenticity within a group can give can lead to optimal results. Portraying authenticity can make others feel more comfortable and this can be very beneficial. An authentic leader also brings integrity into a group and that aspect of being honest can be a link to bringing more people on whatever mission the leader is trying to achieve. Honesty within a leader can allow the group to observe everything with clarity and it is not just about being honest, but actually real with how a leader wants to portray themselves. A good role model can lead to a follower turning into a leader that brings a positive change in their community.