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Chapter 1: SELF-ASSESSMENT EXERCISE

Are You a Leader?

Think about someone you know whom you think is a leader and a particular situation in which he or she provided leadership.

1. To what extent were Gardner's *Tasks of Leadership* evident in this person's actions?

2. How did others react to this individual's leadership?

3. Which of these *Tasks* do you think you can fulfill, and which will require more study, experience, or practice for you to hone?

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Are You a “Yes” Person or an Exemplary Follower?

As described by Kelley, think about a circumstance in which you were a “Yes” person, a sheep, or an alienated follower.

1. Why do you think you acted this way under those circumstances?

2. Describe how you feel about yourself with the outcomes of the situations in which you play one of these less-than-ideal follower roles.

3. How do you feel about the way you handled this situation?

4. What can you do to ensure that you function as an effective/exemplary follower more often than you function as a “Yes” person, a sheep, or an alienated follower?

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Chapter 1: SELF-ASSESSMENT EXERCISES

Finding and Developing Your Leadership Qualities

Think of someone in nursing whom you consider to be a leader. It may be a former teacher, a current nurse manager, a researcher in your clinical area of expertise, a nurse legislator, a colleague, or someone else who has influenced your life.

1. Describe the bold vision that this person articulates and pursued that made you remember what he or she did.

2. Describe the actions that this person took to realize his or her vision.

3. How did this person effectively engage others in the quest?

4. How passionate is/was this person about his or her vision?

5. Describe how this person handled criticism, setbacks, and opposition on the road to success.

Now think about yourself.

6. What aspects of nursing are you passionate about?

7. Describe the actions and activities you have taken to realize your vision.

8. What aspect of your vision sustains your passion about it?

9. How have you dealt with criticism and setbacks? If you have not faced any, how do you think you will handle them?

10. Describe how you “measure up” as a leader.

11. If you are not functioning as effectively as you would like, how can you develop your abilities in this role?

12. What course of action can you take to improve your leadership skills?

13. Identify a role model within your school or workplace who you would like to emulate. Describe the qualities that make him or her stand out in your mind.

14. Contact a faculty member or work peer who may help direct you to a potential mentor. With that mentor, create a list of your personal goals he or she can help you develop.

15. How might keeping a reflective journal help?

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Chapter 1: SELF-ASSESSMENT EXERCISES

Understanding the Differences and Similarities Between Leadership and Management

1. Draw a visual representation of leadership and one of management, reflecting the major elements in each role and showing where there are points of overlap between them as well as where they differ.

2. Using your visual representation, describe the type of role you might play in some common work situations.

3. Describe the possible “conflicts” that might occur in some of these situations between leaders and managers when they work together.

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Chapter 5: SELF-ASSESSMENT EXERCISE

Legal and Ethical Knowledge

Think about a recent incident that required management and executive intervention.

Ask yourself:

1. Were there legal issues involved, and if so, what were these issues?

2. Was there an ethical situation involved, and if so, what ethical principle was violated?

3. Was negligence involved or potentially involved?
