



## MODEL THE WAY

**MODEL THE WAY** is one of the five practices for exemplary leaders. From the book: *The Student Leadership Challenge – The Five Practices for Exemplary Leaders*

**Grade Level:** 6-12

**Lesson Plan Timeframe:** 1 45 minute class period

**Program Topic:** Model the Way

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| <p><b>Overview &amp; Purpose</b><br/>         In order for students to be role models and effective leaders, it is important for them to define what is important to them as individuals and as a member of TSA. This lesson helps students examine various values they feel are important to them and their relationship to TSA.</p> | <p><b>Relevance to STEM Careers</b><br/><br/>         All</p>   |
| <p><b>Lesson Plan Goals &amp; Objectives</b></p>  | <p>Focus on personal-best leadership experiences and examine the role of values in leadership.<br/>         Identify personal values and rank in order of importance.</p> |

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| <b>Materials Needed</b> | <p><b><u>Supplies</u></b><br/>Paper<br/>Pen/pencil<br/>Highlighters or markers<br/>Overhead projector/computer<br/>Post-It notes – several per student</p> <p><b><u>Students Complete Before This Lesson</u></b><br/>My Personal Best Leadership Experience</p> <p><b><u>Handouts</u></b><br/><a href="#">My Personal Best Leadership Experience handout</a> – one copy per student</p> <p><a href="#">Values Exercise</a> (one per student) <i>Note: When duplicating, print one-sided rather than two-sided so students can lay handouts side-by-side and view their list in its entirety.</i></p> <p><a href="#">Copy of TSA’s mission statement</a></p> |
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**Introduction of Subject**

Ask the students to share with another student their personal best leadership experience. Ask for a few volunteers to share their personal best with the class.

Post the following quote from The Student Leadership Challenge (TSLC). “You can’t do what you say if you don’t know what you believe. You can’t do what you say if you don’t believe what you’re saying” (Kouzes and Posner, 2008, p. 42). Give students several minutes to respond to the quote.

- What does it mean?
- Do they agree/disagree and why? Share examples and experiences that support their position.

Share and discuss. Explain that this quote is talking about values. Values according to TSLC are “enduring beliefs about how things should be accomplished” (Kouzes and Posner, 2008, p. 32). They are the “moral compass” of how we live our daily lives. Have some discussion about how values are shaped and what influences our values.

Possible discussion questions:

- Where do values come from? What shapes/determines our values?
- How/why might values change over time?
- Are there times when we value something but our actions do not necessarily show it? Explain. Why do you think this happens?

Let’s examine values more closely in terms of our own lives and what it means in terms of leadership.

## Activity 1

Distribute the Values Exercise to each student. Ask them to review the list. Clarify the meanings of any terms that are unclear to the students. They may also add any values to the list that have not been included. Have students complete the tasks in the following order:

- Put a check mark next to their top 25 values
- Highlight their top ten (or underline if highlighters are not available)
- Rate their top ten with 10 being the least important and 1 being the most important
- Explain their top five values

Do a quick share of some of the students' top values.

Possible discussion questions:

- Did anyone add any values to the list? If so, what?
- How easy/difficult was it to rank your values?
- Think back to your "personal best leadership experience." What values were represented?
- Are there areas in your own leadership experiences that you feel your values are more apparent than others? Explain.

## Activity 2

Explain to students that leadership isn't just about what we believe, but about having shared values and putting those values into action.

Review TSA's mission statement.

Distribute several Post-It notes to students and ask them to write down three to five values from their list that they have seen represented in the organization. Have students connect their examples to the mission and post them accordingly. Give students a chance to read the values others have posted. Students can stay in small groups for a small group discussion or return to seats for a whole class discussion.

Possible discussion questions:

- What observations can you make about the values posted?
- What are the similarities between your top five values and those posted? Differences?
- Are there any values that were posted that you disagree with – either their placement or their role in our school/organization? Why?
- Are their values you notice have been forgotten or missed?
- How do these values influence what we do as members of TSA?
- How would TSA be different if we did not have a mission?
- How can/do leaders demonstrate these values/beliefs? Give specific examples.

Emphasize that these documents and principles represent the shared values of leaders involved in TSA.

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| <p><b>Activity 3</b></p>         | <p>Leaders live and act by their values. They have clarity in what they believe, and they align their actions with their values. Refer back to the connection that values are like a compass because they provide direction and focus.</p> <p>Ask students to write their own analogies and then share them with the class.<br/>Complete the following phrases:<br/>Values are like _____ because<br/>_____</p> <p>Teachers/advisors may want to post these or create a bulletin board to display students' work. For an additional challenge, students may create a reverse analogy.<br/>Values are not like _____ because_____.</p> |
| <p><b>Summary/Evaluation</b></p> | <p>Ask students to summarize what it means to model the way in their own words and why it is important in TSA. Remind them that leadership is about doing, but it is also about purposeful and consistent actions based on shared values and how we demonstrate those values through our actions. It's not just about us as individuals, but who/what we represent.</p> <p>Students may be evaluated on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Values Exercise</li> <li>• Analogies</li> <li>• Participation in discussion</li> </ul>  |

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| <p><b>Additional Resources for Teaching Model the Way</b></p> | <p><i>The Student Leadership Challenge</i> – Five Practices for Exemplary Leaders Chapter 3</p> <p><a href="#">“It’s All in a Name”</a> activity</p> <p><a href="#">“A Leadership Point of View”</a> activity</p> <p><a href="#">Liberty Mutual ad</a> “Helping Hand is Contagious” - available on YouTube and can be downloaded locally via <a href="http://www.Vdownloader.com">www.Vdownloader.com</a></p> |
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