

## "Stand by your Quote"

**Author:** Tom Siebold

**Objective (s):** To introduce leadership discussion and awareness

**How the author has used this exercise:** A good facilitator has to get the participant "juices" flowing before discussion begins. This exercise introduces the topic of leadership and encourages each participant to make a personal statement about his or her understanding of what makes a good leader. I like the exercise because it gets the participants out of their chairs and on their feet.

**Activity Description:** Place thoughtful leadership quotes on the walls--leave plenty of room between the quotes and make certain the print is large. It works best if the quotes touch on different aspects of leadership; in short, have a variety of different quotes.

Ask the participants to leave their chairs and walk around the room reading each of the quotes (there is no particular order). Then have them stand by one quote that resonates well with their personal views on what makes a good leader. When all participants have selected a quote (you can have more than one person by a quote), have each explain to the group why his or her chosen quote is important to them--share a leadership insight.

The facilitator can write key ideas or words on the white board. These can launch further discussion questions or serve as a "bridge" to additional leadership content.

**Options:** This activity is adjustable to almost any professional development topic; you simply select quotes that fit your topic.

### Quotes I've used:

It is better to lead from behind and to put others in front, especially when you celebrate victory when nice things occur. You take the front line when there is danger. Then people will appreciate your leadership.

#### **Nelson Mandela**

Leadership is solving problems. The day soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help or concluded you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership.

#### **Colin Powell**

Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality.

#### **Warren G. Bennis**

The best executive is the one who has sense enough to pick good men to do what he wants done, and self-restraint to keep from meddling with them while they do it.

#### **Theodore Roosevelt**

"A good leader inspires people to have confidence in the leader; a great leader inspires people to have confidence in themselves"

If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you're a leader.

#### **John Quincy Adams**

Any fact facing us is not as important as our attitude toward it, for that determines our success or failure.

#### **Norman Vincent Peale**

A leader is a person you will follow to a place you would not go by yourself.

#### **Joel Barker**

Lead and inspire people. Don't try to manage and manipulate people. Inventories can be managed, but people must be led.

**Ross Perot**

Management is doing things right: leadership is doing the right things.

**Peter F. Drucker**

Don't tell people how to do things, tell them what to do and let them surprise you with their results.

**George S. Patton**

Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it.

**Dwight Eisenhower**

Delegating work works, provided the one delegating works, too.

**Robert Half**

Leadership should be born out of the understanding of the needs of those who would be affected by it.

**Marian Anderson**