Although Odysseus is capable of being a good, smart leader who puts his men before himself, his pride and curiosity often caused him to neglect his duty as a leader and his men’s safety. In every adventure, Odysseus proves his skills as a cunning trickster, able to rescue his men out of bad situations, like any leader should. When they were stuck in a man-eating Cyclops's cave, Odysseus made the Cyclops drunk with wine and called himself "noman" to prevent other Cyclops from understanding that the Cyclops Odysseus blinded was in danger of "noman." Without Odysseus’s strategic mind, the men would have never escaped the Cyclops stomach. Furthermore, he also knowingly risked his life to save his men turned into pigs by Circe.

However skillful he was at getting out of bad situations and putting his men before himself when he wanted to, it was often his fault for getting into such bad situations. Odysseus, to satisfy his own curiosity, told his men to go into the cave of the Cyclops, which resulted in the death of many of his men. He later taunted the Cyclops once they escaped the blinded Cyclops, even though his taunts provoked the Cyclops to hurl rocks at the boat full of his men. Even when Odysseus risked his life for his men turned into pigs, he most likely did it to appear brave to the rest of his men.

Even though Odysseus has the potential to be a good, smart leader, his actions demonstrate he values his fame over his men.