

Intergenerational Learning Activity (Interview)

1. Who Did I interview + Responses

- Who did I interview?

Unfortunately, I was unable to find someone other than my father to interview for this activity, so the person I interviewed is my father. He is an entrepreneur and former analytical chemist and software engineer. When he was living in China, he was an analytical chemist, he focused on testing chemical materials and testing chemical toxicity. However when he left China to immigrate to Canada, he ended up studying and finding a job in the computer science field as it was a more lucrative job at that time. After a couple of years after working as a software engineer, he decided that he did not want to be bossed around by the higher ups of his company, and left. At that moment, he decided to become his own boss. He then started his own business in the retail industry where he owns a convenience store in the downtown area. Till this day, his business is doing very well and as a result, my family and I had the privilege of living a comfortable life.

- “In your words, what makes a good leader?”

My father states that a good leader is someone who should know a lot about what they're doing so they can make informed decisions and help their team. They also need to be cooperative and good at working with others. He also says that a great leader is able to bring people together and to make sure everyone gets along and works well together. They are able to encourage and empower their team to be their best and to work as a team. To him, a good leader should know how to use each person's strengths to get the job done successfully. Also, they should be very organized and have good management skills, which helps keep everything running smoothly and efficiently.

- “How have your views of leadership changed over time?”

When I asked my father this question, he shared that their views have actually remained quite consistent with the views that I shared in the previous question.

- “What local, national, or international historical events may have shaped these views?”

When asked about what local, national, or international historical events may have shaped these views, one significant factor was the introduction of the ISO 9001 quality control standards in China in the early 1990s. This global standard for quality management systems provided my father with opportunities to grow as a leader in his organization. The implementation of these new laws required businesses to change to more rigorous quality control measures, to fit international standards. My father's organization was one of the first ones to implement these new standards. He was also the first few people to learn new quality control measures necessary, and eventually was tasked with the important leadership role of teaching and leading the newer members of

his organization about these standards. For him, it was a turning point as it gave him insight and real life experience on how to be a good leader, which in turn shaped the views he has today.

- **“What advice do you have for younger generations of aspiring leaders?”**

When I asked my father what advice he has for younger generations of aspiring leaders, he shared some really valuable insights. He emphasized the importance of listening to the advice and opinions of your team members. He also gave the advice of having the ability to critically think about solving the problems and questions that your team has because it helps build trust and respect within your team. My father also believes that understanding and analyzing the ideas of your team members will help in finding the best way to lead the team to success. He also mentioned that it's essential to prioritize resources effectively to lead efficiently. Additionally, he advised discovering the abilities of each person and assigning them to roles that suit their strengths. Knowing your team members well and making good use of their skills is vital for achieving success. This approach not only strengthens the team but also helps in personal growth as a leader.

2. What is my new perspective?

After interviewing my father on his opinions and views, I discovered a lot of new perspectives on leadership from him. I learned that being a good leader is not just about how you can make your team members efficiently complete the task but also how to encourage them to be better as it is important to encourage people to be better and not just order people around or else no one is willing to listen to you. I had a new perspective on how I should approach people better and make them willing to be led by me.

3. Open-ended questions + responses

How should I become a better leader?

When I asked him how I should become a better leader, he gave me some advice. First he said that before anything, in order to be a good leader I must always consider the people that I lead. I must always make informed decisions that benefit our common goal, however I must always consider my team members because he said that without them, our common goal will never be achieved properly. He also said that a good leader learns to discover the abilities of each person to be able to assign roles to them that they can actually do to the best of their abilities. This way the common goal will be best achieved. In conclusion, I think this really helped me understand my shortcomings in my leadership abilities, but it also made me realize just what goals I need to have in order to be a better leader.