LEAD3030 – Leadership Development

Journal Two – Table of Contents

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Workload Route | Pass | Number of Words | 1719 |

Please indicate contract route and the number of words in this journal in the table above:

If you are pursuing the “Pass” route you are to write about **TWO (2)** items from each section (each from a different unit). If you are pursuing the “Honours” route you are to write about **THREE (3)** items from each section (each from a different unit).

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Section A** | **Contemporary readings from the text and / or substantial handouts used in class.**  **(Pass do two; Honours do three)** | | | |
|  |  | Article Name | Page | OK |
|  | Unit 2 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Unit 3 |  |  |  |
|  |  | *Universal Human Values p.117* | 2 |  |
|  | Unit 4 | *I Have a Dream p.151* | 2 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Section B** | **Readings not done in class (from the textbook and articles posted on the FTP)**  **(Pass do two; Honours do three)** | | | |
|  |  |  | Page | OK |
|  | Unit 2 | *Ubuntu p.84* | *3* |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Unit 3 | *Thinking Ethically, p.139* | *3* |  |
|  | Unit 4 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Section C** | **Classic Cases**  **(Pass do two; Honours do three)** | | | |
|  |  |  | Page | OK |
|  | Unit 2 | *Journey to the East, Herman Hesse p. 65* | *3* |  |
|  | Unit 3 | *Billy Budd, Herman Melville p.105* | 4 |  |
|  | Unit 4 |  |  |  |
| **Section D** | **Films or videos used in class**  **(Pass do two; Honours do three)** | | | |
|  |  |  | Page | OK |
|  | Unit 2 | *Fabio Lazo / Mohammad Yunus* | 5 |  |
|  |  | *Hotel Rwanda* | 4 |  |
|  | Unit 3 |  |  |  |
|  | Unit 4 |  |  |  |
| **Section E** | **Experiential Exercises (what you learned from participating / observing)**  **(Pass do two; Honours do three)** | | | |
|  |  |  | Page | OK |
|  | Unit 2 |  |  |  |
|  | Unit 3 | *Whom to choose for a kidney transplant* | 6 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Unit 4 | *Hollow Squares* | 7 |  |
| **Section F** | **Shared analysis – a brief discussion of other student comments**  **(Pass do two; Honours do three)** | | | |
|  |  |  | Page | OK |
|  |  | *Student name #1: Jeremy* | 8 |  |
|  |  | *Student name #2: Weal* | 8 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

# A – Universal Human Values

I agree with a lot of this list. A list like this of is a good guide to deducing a set of universal human rights. The only thing that really bugged me about it was how equality was only mentioned briefly and was kind of derived from other values. I think equality is important enough that it should be right up at the top of the list.

# A – I Have a Dream

It’s not hard to see why this speech is so revered as one of the greatest of all time. King’s use of places and states is a great way to connect with the audience and to command their attention. If I was an audience member from New York for example and I heard King talking about the ghettos; that would quickly grab my attention. It would tell me “hey this guy knows what I’m going through, he understands my problem”. It’s a great way to convey a message of unity and equality.

# B – Thinking Ethically

I kind of like the idea behind this article. I see it as an attempt to provide a reason based guideline to making ethical decisions. Of the 5 approaches, I lean towards the Utilitarian Approach. I even rank their priority close to the order listed in the article. The Utilitarian Approach recognizes that you can’t always please everyone but you should instead try to provide as much overall benefit as you can.

By contrast the Virtue Approach attempts to hold to a set of standards above what is actually the right thing to do. Being honest isn’t always the ethical choice (white lies, etc). Being tolerant isn’t always in peoples best interest (don’t tolerate intolerance, don’t tolerate hatred and bigotry).

I’m having a bit of trouble telling the Utilitarian Approach and the Common Good Approach apart. They seem really similar. I think the Utilitarian Approach when properly applied is effectively the same as the Common Good Approach.

# B – Ubuntu

There wasn’t much in this article but I did find something to disagree with. The phrase “a person is a person because of other people” to me devalues what people are. People are people even if they somehow manage to completely isolate themselves. An isolated person is still just as important and has the same rights as other people.

# C – Journey to the East

I didn’t get much out of this reading. The only thing that stuck out to me was that servant-leaders can be seen as suspicious. I suppose this will be the case for some people. It can be difficult for some people to believe that a servant-leader can be motivated purely by empathy and a desire to improve the lives of others.

The law of service really didn’t make any sense at all. I’m convinced that I’m just misunderstanding it because it seems like a strange thing to claim. I don’t see any possible way that serving others could lead to a longer life. Could a servant-leader lead a happier life? Maybe; that would make a lot more sense but that’s not what’s being claimed.

# C – Billy Budd

For me the biggest lesson in this movie is the dangers of strict rule following. Rules are written by people who may have a lot of experience, but they haven’t experienced every possible situation. Trying to come up with a set of rules that fit all cases is destined to fail. I would have preferred to see the Captain use his better judgement instead of following order blindly.

It’s also a cautionary tale of ensuring that the punishment fits the crime. I’m not convinced that any crime could possibly deserve the death penalty. Capital punishment is an infinite punishment for a finite crime.

# D – Hotel Rwanda

I found this movie to be fairly powerful. Paul is forced to make some difficult decisions he doesn’t want to make. His quick thinking is a huge asset to his leadership style. At first Paul isn’t the real leader, his wife Tatiana is. Tatiana plays a sort of woman behind the man role, influencing Paul to make the right choice. She brings out the empathy that Paul has in him but is afraid to use, almost like a coach getting the best out of his players.

# D – Fabio Lazo

I kind of like what Fabio is doing. He could have started a campaign telling people about the disillusionment of moving to the city. It would have been much easier for him to preserve the gaucho culture in that way. It would have annoyed fewer politicians and he probably would have met less resistance. Instead he chose to do the hard route of bringing the conveniences of the city to the people. This shows that he really does care. He endured a lot of opposition in order to raise the standard of living for his community and others.

The engineer in me wonders how you can deliver electricity with only one wire, and I wonder if it could be applied to other parts of the world. Electricity is a great first step to bringing these rural communities up to modern standards.

# D – Mohammad Yunus

I first heard about micro-lending a few years ago and I didn’t really get it at first. I kind of rolled my eyes and wondered how it was different from normal lending with a smaller amount. I wonder if it was because the news outlets did a poor job of conveying the lack of a credit requirement or if it’s because I didn’t do a good job of listening.

Regardless, this clip changed my opinion of what micro-lending is. Seeing the impact it has on the people has done more to convince me than a dozen glossed over news articles. When you see how much better off the people are after receiving and paying off their loans, it’s really hard to deny the benefits of micro-lending.

I like that he isn’t sitting back and enjoying his success either. The fact that he is taking his micro-lending idea further is showing that he believes in what he is doing.

# E – Whom to Choose for a Kidney Transplant

The difficult part of this exercise was deciding on a framework to prioritize the allocation of kidneys. I noticed some people used their emotions to make their choices. Someone had put the 5 year old at the top of the list because the kid has parents. Well yeah, but so does everyone else on the list. I don’t think it’s fair to give priority based on that.

So the framework I ended up going with was based on how much that person could potentially contribute to humanity in the future. It seems fair that if a person expects to receive help from other people they should be able to give help in return. The more benefit they are able to provide, the more benefit they should receive.

Once I had decided on that framework it was just a matter of making judgement calls on how much benefit a person provides. Which was still quite difficult but was easier than just using emotions. At least I could make a rational argument.

All in all, I’m really glad that this decision is made by algorithms in the real world. The actual decisions are much more difficult once you start to factor in compatibility and likelihood of a donor arising.

# E – Hollow Squares

One thing I noticed with this exercise is my performance was related to my frustration level. I started off getting a little annoyed that the planners were taking so long to get the plan together. I knew the task couldn’t be so complicated that it took 40 minutes to write down some instructions.

The 60 second brain dump didn’t really help either. John seemed to feel the pressure too because he basically said as much information as he could fit into the 60 seconds. The problem I had is without time to parse and question that information it basically just went in one ear and out the other. I only remembered a few key points of what he said. It would have helped a bit I think if he was able to show the puzzle pieces as part of the 60 seconds. So at this point I was a little frustrated from the wait and a little confused from missing so much information.

So we get to the table and there are these 4 bags. For whatever reason I went in with the idea that whatever we were building was going to be 3 dimensional. When I started reading that the bags were for the “top” and “bottom” it only reinforced the idea. It took about 5 minutes to realize that the pieces didn’t stick together so there was no way this could be 3D.

It was at this time when I also realized we were building a square within a square. But I thought the outside corners were rounded because that’s what the instructions for the top piece resulted in. Some description of what each assembled bag was supposed to look like would have greatly helped this.

The point being, that each step of the way increased my frustration levels slightly. I’ve noticed previously that I am much more likely to make poor decisions when I am stressed or emotional. This exercise reinforced that I need to be more mindful of my emotions and how they are affecting me.

# F – Jeremy

Jeremy had a good point about the Leo’s “Law of Service” PTC. He said that (paraphrasing) long life isn’t necessarily a goal. I have to agree. It would be a better goal to live my life to its fullest potential. If that means championing some cause, then that’s what has to be done. Maybe it’s because I’m still in my 20s but I’m not too worried about living to 80 at this point in my life.

# F – Weal

In response to the first Chaordic Leadership PTC, Weal mentioned that there isn’t a single environment that leaders exist in. This is very true. Different environments require different leaders and leadership styles. It’s a good point to keep in mind when considering all the advice being presented in this class. Not every type of leadership is going to be effective for every goal.