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| Name: Addison Babcock | | | Section: | Due Date: Sept 10 |
| Day: 1 | Unit: 1 | Article Title: The Philosopher King | | |

# Do you agree with Plato that only a few people in society or organizations are capable of leading?

No. If the majority of society was unable to lead this class wouldn’t exist.

When I read the question it seems to be asking which side of the nature vs. nurture debate I’m on. I don’t believe either side is completely correct. Genetics obviously plays an important role in determining a person’s personality but so does that person’s upbringing.

I’m not sure that’s what Plato/Socrates was arguing either. It seems more like he was arguing only philosophers should be rulers. A ruler is a very different person than a leader, although rulers are also leaders.

# What qualities did Plato believe a “Philosopher King” should have?

A love for truth above all else. It seems like Plato believed that every good quality in people stems from a desire for truth. He paints this idealized picture of what a philosopher is but I doubt there is anyone that achieves the level of perfection he is talking about. All people have flaws and Plato seems to ignore that.

# Did Plato consider these qualities to be innate, or could these talents and qualities be developed?

He believed people are born to be philosophers but that the people could be corrupted. Plato felt that the environment most people grew up inevitably corrupted them and prevents them from being true philosophers.

I disagree. Some people are born to be leaders but leadership is something that can be learned.

# Did Plato see the “Philosopher King” concept as the only approach to leadership, or did he see potential alternative styles?

Plato used the ship captain as an analogy to show how letting people choose their own leader can be flawed. He thought that leaders should be chosen based on their knowledge and experience and not based on their ability to manipulate others. In his mind, choosing leaders in any way that doesn’t require knowledge inevitably leads to corrupt leaders.

# Do you agree with Plato’s assertion that the “mob” (the people) rarely can make correct decisions when they act in concert?

I do believe people behave differently when they are surrounded by other people. The classic example is would you rather be stranded in a broken down car on a country road or a crowded highway? You are much more likely to get help on the country road. The reason is the drivers on the highway assume “Oh someone else will help them”. The drivers on a country road realize they are the person’s last chance for probably a few hours if not longer and are more likely to help. So yes I do agree with Plato.