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Leadership IV: Self-Awareness Paper

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Growing up in a typical black household, your values, views, and opinions sometimes fall on deaf ears. Parents decide on the next step for their children, dictating what to do and what not to do using the “I have more experience, and I know what’s best for you” card. Unfortunately, these experiences weren’t far from me during my infant years. Therefore, I was agitated and fearful of making decisions, leading me not to know myself and my potential. However, reading Peter Drucker’s piece helped me realise that as people, you need to know your strengths, limitations, how you perform, where you belong, your values, what you should give, and how to build on your relationships with others successfully. Albert Schweitzer once said, “I don’t know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.” I agree with the statement since we live in a society where leaders like to lead and showcase their power rather than serve. Reading the paper and attending the lectures caused me to ponder and realise many aspects of myself that I had not paid attention to. The report aims to reflect on some of the lessons learned from Drucker’s piece, the many self-awareness tasks in class, successful communication, and how I view myself as a leader this semester.

In terms of how I work, I realised that I create better outcomes as an advisor than as a decision-maker, primarily because I was used to having decisions made for me all the time. I used to chastise myself for not making the best judgments in each given scenario. For instance, as part of the organisers for the welfare committee, I needed to develop innovative ideas and events for every Wellness Wednesday. Decisions had to be made concerning which idea would best encourage student engagement. It wasn’t simple for me to make a precise decision whenever I was presented with that issue, but when I was asked for advice on a topic, I found it easy to provide my opinion.

I discovered that I am melancholy in terms of my strength. It’s occurred that I usually have a bright and profound mind. I refuse to be satisfied with superficial knowledge,

preferring to delve into a wide variety of options and themes. I am a keen observer and analytical thinker, and it is because of this I approach every circumstance, challenge, or opportunity with caution and seriousness. In addition, I am a staunch supporter of my friends and family as well as an active listener. I am a competent counsellor and advisor and a rational, trustworthy, and compassionate person with a strong desire to help people in challenging situations. In terms of my weaknesses, I discovered that I am phlegmatic since I strive to avoid distractions and that I am also timid, which makes it difficult for me to convey my thoughts in public. I also lack the willingness to participate and prefer to be a spectator rather than a participant. After reading Drucker's piece, I understood how important it is to seize chances when they arise. The 90/10 rule was also an excellent piece of advice I got from Drucker's essay (2005). As a result, I've opted to focus on my strengths rather than my faults this semester. He advocated for being mediocre in several areas rather than concentrating and being an expert in a few. I believe this would extend my views and avert personality conflict in the long run.

As I previously stated, one of my flaws is my aversion to interacting, talking and sharing my views with others, which makes it difficult for me to take the reins and lead others. However, I'm learning new strategies and ideas that might assist me in overcoming this obstacle. By the end of my four years in Ashesi, in June 2023, I hoped that these acts would have improved my communication abilities. I'm going to start reading books about eloquence, public speaking, and impact, as well as watching TED lectures and films about public speaking. If I'm working in a group, I'll start engaging more in class and taking on presenting duties. Finally, I intend to find a mentor who will support, assist, and motivate me, which I have begun by applying for the Ashesi Mentorship program.

The second thing I'd like to improve is maintaining a happy mental attitude. When things do not go my way, it depresses me and makes me believe that things will not go as

planned. This semester, I aim to modify my perspective and always think positively about school, housework, and everything else around me. The plan would be to surround myself with positive, high-achieving, and optimistic people who share my values. I'd also participate in hobbies that I enjoy, such as learning to play the piano and assisting the less fortunate. Finally, I want to improve my community participation and servant leadership abilities. I would do this by getting out into communities like Berekuso and aiding staff in basic institutions like schools by encouraging special needs pupils who have lost hope or are not academically inclined. In addition, I intend to be an active facilitator in my groups. By taking more initiative to lead my peers, I feel that I will earn experience that will enable me to advance to more senior leadership roles.

Growing up as a lady with a negative perspective, I was always interested in developing facilities to assist many persons battling their mental health. Since this has been my passion and goal for a long time, at the age of 70, I would like to establish a variety of supportive mental health facilities. These facilities would have experienced, and trained personnel using the pension and return on investments I would have accumulated from my job as a Google analyst and my other seven streams of income. As someone who has suffered from mental health concerns, I was disappointed that most African nations did not prioritise such projects. These institutions will devise efficient ways for eradicating depression and rekindling a positive outlook in the minds of persons fighting to discover hope and happiness in themselves.

In conclusion, throughout the report, I learned and shared lessons from Drucker's piece, the numerous self-awareness tasks in class, successful communication, and how I perceive myself as a leader this semester.

References

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