

Cases in Leadership, 4th Edition with Glenn Rowe and Laura Guerrero

Chapter 1

Discussion Questions – what is leadership?

1. What is leadership?

This question generates discussion about what students think leadership is. The instructor can take this opportunity to comment on misconceptions or myths about leadership. One way to guide the discussion is by asking whether leadership is a behavior, a behavioral pattern, an attitude, a process or something else.

2. Who is a leader?

We often think that leadership is a role that a certain person has. This question can uncover how students identify someone with a leadership role. One way to guide this discussion is by asking whether certain well-known people are leaders. Some examples that can be used are Donald Trump, Oprah Winfrey, Barack Obama, Vladimir Putin, Pope Francis, your instructor, and many others. The instructor can follow up with questions as to why one person is thought of as a leader but not another one.

3. Why is leadership important?

Thousands of books have been written about leaders and leadership. This discussion can be guided to discover the difference between a popular topic and an important one. Is leadership just a popular topic or an important one? Why?

4. Why is followership important?

Is the ability to follow a leader important as well? This topic is less popular than the topic of leadership. The discussion can follow the previous question of whether a popular topic is more important than an unpopular one. Another way to lead this discussion is to ask whether a leader can be equally effective if he or she has subordinates who are not good followers.

Preparation Questions

1. Think of a well-known person who is regarded as a leader and another one who is not. Search for a short biography of both individuals. This can be done on the Internet. Compare and contrast the biographies. How is the leader different from the non-leader?
2. How are they similar?

These preparation questions will help students when asking discussion questions number 1 and 2.