



What is Leadership?

Leadership is the ability to inspire and motivate others to be the best version of themselves.

Middle School Civics Teacher,
Miami-Dade, FL

Leadership is empowering others and empowering yourself through knowledge and action.

Student Teacher,
Prince William County, VA

Leadership is uniting people towards a common goal by setting a positive example for how to act and how to treat others.

High School Government Teacher,
Prince William County, VA

Why is it important?

Leadership is about inspiring and supporting others to become civically engaged and do better for their communities. Leadership is not one size fits all. Instead, different leadership approaches are best suited for different contexts and situations. Because all students have the capacity for leadership, it's important they are given opportunities to explore their own leadership style and voice.

Examples of what students can learn through leadership:

Leadership Knowledge

- Historic and contemporary leaders
- Different leadership styles and strategies
- National and local issues

Leadership Skills

- Public speaking
- Perspective taking
- Ethical decision-making

Leadership Dispositions

- Honor
- Loyalty
- Trustworthiness



Making connections:

Leadership provides a new lens for exploring topics in civics. It encourages students to learn from figures throughout history, and today, who have led the government and society. It requires an understanding of the issues that are important to communities and to the nation. Leadership also provides a lens for exploring service. Service and civic engagement projects become an opportunity to practice leadership skills and develop leadership styles.



Questions to consider:

- How do I define leadership?
- How do I teach leadership knowledge, skills, and dispositions?
- How do I inspire leadership from within the classroom?