



## **Your vision of yourself as a leader**

Many of us come slowly to the understanding that we can lead others and make a difference in the world. It is not a common part of our education to envision ourselves as leaders, much less to intentionally commit ourselves to a path of developing these important skills.

One step for us to take is to begin to imagine the leader we want to become. It is quite possible that by envisioning a future in which we are more effective in leading others that we plant the seeds for developing into that person.

The purpose of this exercise is to think about the leader you want to develop. Whether you give this a time horizon of a year, five or even ten years, by making your vision explicit you make it more likely to become true.

### **To develop your vision of yourself as a leader, explore these questions:**

Who do you admire as a leader now? What qualities, actions or behaviors do you see this person express that you find admirable? How can you find ways to incorporate these behaviors into your own life?

Think of a person who has acted in a way that you find antithetical to what you believe good leadership looks like. What specifically has this person done that is ineffective? How can you be sure not to follow their example?

Where do you see yourself in the future? In what environment would you most like to be working? Describe an ideal situation that would bring out your best as a leader.

If you could lead anything—any project or activity, at any level—what would it be?

Describe the leader you aspire to become. What characteristics will you demonstrate? What will you be doing? How will others view you?