



State of California – Military Department  
California Cadet Corps

# CURRICULUM ON LEADERSHIP

Strand L6: Profiles in Leadership

Level 11

This Strand is composed of the following components:

- A. Historical Leadership Profiles
- B. Contemporary Leadership Profiles
- C. **Leaders Who Inspire You**



“Learn from Leaders who have forged the way before us.”

# Table of Contents

C. Leaders Who Inspire You ..... 3

    Objectives ..... 3

**C1: Inspirational Leaders**..... 4

## C. Leaders Who Inspire You

**Standard #3: Cadets emerge as experienced leaders ready to succeed in college and career.**

### OBJECTIVES

#### **DESIRED OUTCOME (Leadership)**

*Cadets learn how to profile leaders who inspire them; determine the reasons for their success, and what their experience added to the study of leadership. Cadets will be able to:*

1. Identify an inspirational leader, someone who inspires you to be a better leader yourself, someone you admire.
2. Develop a leadership profile in the general format provided, including:
  - Biographical information
  - Leadership Lessons
  - Quotes from the Leader
  - Related Books, if any
  - Related Videos, if any
  - Related Links
3. Compare the leadership of the inspirational leader to your own leadership skills, styles, and dynamics, and to what you've learned about leadership in your CACC experience.

## **C1: Inspirational Leaders**

To be an effective, inspiring leader, learn from the best. Role modelling and learning from successful people is one way of improving your leadership skills.

This lesson is meant to be a practical exercise in profiling leaders. Cadets can try this out on their own, or be assigned it as a self-study project to identify, research, and develop a profile of an inspirational leader. The goals of this lesson are to be introspective about leadership, identifying the characteristics, traits, or lessons we can learn from leaders we choose to study, and to conduct effective research and writing to develop a profile on the leader you're studying.

In this strand on Leadership Profiles (L6), we have accepted a general format for a leadership profile. It consists of:

- A Brief Biography
- Leadership Lessons
- Quotes from the Leader
- Related Books
- Related Videos
- Related Links

### **STEP 1: Familiarize yourself with the Leadership Profile format**

If you haven't studied the leadership profiles in L6A and L6B, take a look at some of them before you start planning this project. Familiarize yourself with the type of information you'll need to gather on your inspirational leader.

### **STEP 2: Select a Leader to profile**

Your leader should be a public figure, not your mom or dad. Many of us are inspired by our parents, but that is not the best choice for this exercise. Your leader can be someone you know (well or a little), or someone you've never met. They should be a leader that you find inspiring in some way – for what they have accomplished, or how they lead. Your leader can be living or dead, of any era. They don't have to be the person you most admire as a leader – just a person whose leadership you find inspiring. Your leader should not be one of the leaders already profiled in L6A and L6B, nor should they be included in the website LeadershipGeeks.com (that's too easy, and letting someone else do the work).

Commandants shouldn't assign leaders – part of the process is thinking about leadership and making your own selection. But commandants may limit cadets' selections to certain categories, or require that every cadet in the class profile a different leader.

You can target an historical figure or a contemporary figure who is in the public arena. This can be a politician, a business leader, or even a military or sports figure. Once you have a list of possible leaders, think about their leadership. What about their leadership makes (or made) them an inspiring leader? What are they trying to accomplish that causes them to lead others? Can you identify the style of leadership they use? Can we learn lessons from them? Can you put together a profile on them? Can you answer the next set of questions, which goes along with our leadership profile process?

**Alternative:** You may want to explore leadership by profiling leaders at your own level. You're not likely going to find much information on them on the internet or in books, but you can conduct interviews to determine the information yourself.

Your leader might be a cadet or commandant leader you've seen within the Cadet Corps, or an administrator or teacher at your school. Or the leader of an organization or church you belong to. You will have to conduct interviews with the leader and others who they lead.

For your inspirational leader, try to answer these questions:

- What has the leader accomplished? What is their vision?
- Can you identify the style of leadership used? This is sometimes hard because people don't just fit into one category – they act differently in different situations.
- What leadership lessons can we take away?
- What traits does he/she exhibit?
- What do you admire about him/her?
- Is there anything about the leader that you dislike and don't want to emulate?
- Is there controversy about the leader and what he/she did or believed?
- What did you learn that you can use to improve your own leadership?

Please note that our purpose here is looking at leaders, not heroes. We often try to set up leaders as heroes, and assume some unobtainable type of perfection. Heroes aren't perfect; no one is. And we shouldn't expect them to be. Sometimes leaders are heroes, but many times they aren't. Sometime leaders are villains (or worse). For example, Adolf Hitler could be considered a great leader, but because of what he believed and did, he is no hero. But we're just looking at leadership in this exercise; how they led others to the goals they wanted to achieve. We're looking at examples of how leadership can change the world – or at least their little part of it – and how others' traits and actions and passions helped them be a leader in their world.

### **STEP 3: Research your leader**

Gather the information you'll need to write your Leader Profile, using the given format. You can decide what to include and what to exclude later. Find information wherever you can, on websites, in books and magazines, or in your own world.

To develop a profile on a leader who isn't a public figure, you'll need to develop questions that will probe the leader for information that will help you build your profile. You should carefully plan your interview. You may want to share the questions with the leader prior to the interview – a couple days thinking about it may give them the opportunity to give more thorough or deeper answers to your questions. You should also interview the people who know them – followers or peers or even their boss – what kind of information would people in those relationships with a leader have that the leader may not even know?

### **STEP 4: Write your Leader Profile**

In special circumstances, you may have to skip a section (if, for example, there are no books written about your leader). But you must include the biographical information, leadership lessons, quotes, and related links, and cite references for your work. Your profile should help you understand the leader in a

deeper way and provide useful lessons on how to emulate their success in leadership and life. Make sure you include references from your research.

**STEP 5: Present your Leader Profile**

If desired by the Commandant, present your leadership profile to your Cadet Corps class. Use slides or videos to both convey the information better and to give the class a better 'picture' of your leader. Be sure to focus on the aspects of leadership that your leader demonstrates. These may be framed as 'lessons learned' or traits or leadership style. Basically, answer the question about what you can learn from how they exercise leadership, and how it will help you in your own quest to be a leader.