

# Leadership Characteristics

Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Introductory  Working \_\_\_\_\_ Closing \_\_\_\_\_ Game

**Optimum Group Size:** 5 - 15

**Materials Needed:** Pencils and Leadership Characteristics Sheet to each participant

## Outline of Activity:

Pass out a copy of Leadership Characteristics Sheet to each participant. Instruct participants that they are to select five characteristics that they feel are the most important for a group/community leader and rank those/characteristics (1 being the most important; 5 being the least important). Allow five minutes for this portion of the exercise. After all participants have selected the five most important characteristics, have the group divide themselves into subgroups consisting of 3 to 5 participants. Instruct participants that they will have 20 minutes to arrive at a group decision as to the five most important characteristics and a rank order for the five. List three rules that must be followed in reaching consensus: 1. You must work as a group; 2. Do not choose a formal discussion leader, and 3. Do not take formal votes to reach your decision. Depend on consensus. Lead discussion concentrating on how, in fact, each group operated in reaching their decision.

## Goal:

To become aware of your feelings about what characteristics of leadership you think are important.

## How to Process:

How does the group list of characteristics compare to the leadership methods utilized in deriving those lists?

Did the group list reflect a large portion of the participants' lists or the lists of only a few members? Discuss.

How were differences of opinion dealt with?

Was consensus reached by active participation or by inactive "agreement"? Discuss.

If there were some inactive participators how were they dealt with by the group?

**Source or Submitted by:** Unknown

## LEADERSHIP CHARACTERISTIC SHEET

Below is a list of characteristics that might be used to describe a group or community leader. You are to select from this list five characteristics - the ones you feel are the most important for a group leader and to rank the five characteristics in order of importance (1) being the most important; (5) being the least important). List the five characteristics in the order you decide on by placing numbers next to your choices in the space provided. You have five minutes to complete this task.

- \_\_\_ Initiative
- \_\_\_ Interest in people
- \_\_\_ Well organized
- \_\_\_ Awareness of local politics
- \_\_\_ Intelligence
- \_\_\_ Emotional stability
- \_\_\_ Cultural interests
- \_\_\_ Loyalty to community
- \_\_\_ Generalized experience
- \_\_\_ Specialized experience
- \_\_\_ Sense of humor
- \_\_\_ Good socializer
- \_\_\_ Respect in community
- \_\_\_ Financial independence
- \_\_\_ Physical health and vigor
- \_\_\_ Grasp of local issues