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ELI has been an experience that I am likely never to forget; it has meant that much to me. While in ELI, I did many things that meant something to me, and a few things that really meant something to me. Throughout the class, I learned more about myself as a leader and a person. Even though I am an introvert, I am an effective, patient leader who listens as well as understands others. Most of all, I have seen my dad through me, and that is the biggest compliment of all. Now that I know how to be the most effective leader that I can be, I plan on being a leader rather than a follower whenever possible for the rest of my life.

This leads me to my next point of interest. For my individual project, I have been helping out at a middle school in Fayette County. This means a lot to me because I plan on taking up the leadership position of teacher after I graduate. Therefore, when taking up my project, I wanted to make an impact on students' lives without them knowing that I was helping them. As it has happened, the students that I have helped and am helping, have helped me as well and without me knowing! How ironic! Through this project, I have relearned that every student is different as well as special in his or her own right. Also, I have learned that I have a special gift to touch and relate to young adults. Now that I have had one-on-one experience with middle school students, I will be that much better of a teacher and leader when the time comes. The lessons I have learned and taught have been the most rewarding and significant activities for me in ELI.

Even though the time has not come yet for me to be a full-time teacher, it is the time for me to apply my leadership skills in other areas of my life. Therefore, some other times during ELI that have meant something to me were the sessions when we planned

our group project, us actually carrying out our group project, and finally, the sessions on time management and goal setting. First of all, the planning of our group project was an obstacle to overcome that was overly confusing. Because what seemed like a relatively easy task became an obstacle, I ended up learning a lot. The major impact of these sessions was learning that a group of strong leaders can work together successfully. It is a great feeling when you can see a group of intelligent individuals come together with all their different ideas and opinions to create a great service project that was agreeable to twenty plus people! Now, I am a better person because I know that I can work with numerous people to get things done.

Secondly, since the planning of the project turned out so well, you can only imagine how the project went! My participation in the group project was a great learning experience. Not only did I learn about my fellow leaders, but I also learned about humanity and the kindness in people's hearts. There are many potential leaders out there. Working together as a part of a team of enthusiastic leaders was extremely rewarding. It is now obvious that people can get along and make big things happen whenever those people come together and work for the better good. I plan on taking such ideas into my classroom.

Lastly, the sessions on time management and goal setting taught me, a procrastinator, about making the most of my time. I have learned that by setting goals, I can manage my time according to what is most important to me and my intentions. Setting goals has become a major part of my leadership role, and helped me to accomplish my personal service project to my satisfaction. Also, I have begun to work

time management into my every day life, so that I can get the most out of every hour of every day!

All in all, ELI has been an instrument for me to play and learn. Just like a composer when he/she has completed a symphony, I have almost completed ELI and am extremely satisfied. Many of the focuses of the different sessions of ELI I had a prior knowledge of because of the influence of my parents and family, but ELI helped to reiterate those topics into my life. Also, ELI showed me the extent of the power of successful leadership in today's day and age. Through ELI I have learned many things, made many friends, and changed my life.