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When asked to reflect upon my experience with the Emerging Leader Institute, there is not one word I can use to describe how much it has impacted my life. There is not one aspect alone that I can choose over another, because all of the experiences and knowledge that I have gained through this class will benefit me for the rest of my life. I believe that as a person, I have grown into a better leader all around, and have become more aware of myself, my potential, and what I can do as an individual to make an impression on the world around me.

One activity that we did during ELI that sticks out in my mind is the chip activity. We were asked to do this activity as a part of the lecture on "Diversity". We had two male speakers come in to speak to us and they asked the class to partake in this activity. This was possibly the most fun I had in class, although at times, it was quite distressing. We were asked to grab about five chips from random bags that we were given and from there we had to calculate the highest score we could by trading with each other. There were different colored chips, with different values. Those with the highest scores were set into one group; those with average scores were set into another group; and those with mediocre scores were set into the last group. From there we were branded with a circle, square, or triangle, based on our score. The elite's, which I believe were the squares, were against the other two groups; while the other two groups acted together against the elite's.

I had the pleasure of being included in the average group. This process continued for multiple rounds, and some people had the opportunity to move from the mediocre group to the elite group. At one point, the rules were allowed to be modified to whatever the elite's desired. This obviously did not benefit the other two groups in the slightest. At

this point, the average group and the mediocre group acted together as a force to override the elite's. We all decided not to trade with the elite's and to run to the front of the room so we didn't have to trade anymore. It must have been the funniest sight because there must have been 15 of us scrambling to get to the front of the room. At that point, the game was over. This was not only a fun activity, but taught me a lot as well. It taught me that there are three very apparent classes that exist in today's society. I also learned that just because the "elite" class exists, does not mean that they are not discriminated against as well. They are often discriminated against due to the fact that they do have money. It also showed me what it was like to be discriminated against.

Through this class, I was able to learn so much about myself, and the different characteristics that go into becoming a great leader. It showed me that not only do you have to be stern in your ways, but at the same time, show compassion and empathy to those that look up to you. I also realized, that to have a following, you must possess charisma and ambition. I believe that the most important aspect of a leader is charisma. If you have a dynamic personality, and a strong presence, many people will be drawn to you. Because of this, I have grown as a person, and will be able to effect others in positive ways through my leadership.

I will apply all that I have learned in the Emerging Leader Institute to my daily lifestyle. I will live everyday to the fullest and realize that my actions do effect those around me. My actions reflect what kind of a person I am, and the leader that I strive to be. Through this experience, I have grown to realize that sometimes I am not always right in my ways, and that I need to show more patience and consideration to others thoughts. I have also learned that in order for something to be done well, I do have to ask for

assistance and collaborate with others. I have come to realize that although I am only one individual, I can influence my community greatly. This course has shown me that I am very lucky with all that I have, and have been fortunate enough to receive all of the opportunities I have been given. Because of this, I am looking forward to possibly volunteering myself as a mentor to young women, and I am now Vice President of my sorority. This experience opened my eyes to a whole new world, and I have realized the potential that I have to be great.