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E.L.I.

Final Paper

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Personal Leadership Philosophy

I joined E.L.I. as a sophomore with no experience in leadership classes. I was given a binder, bought a textbook, and jumped on board. I expected something different; I had assumed we would be working with business leaders from the community more than leaders on campus. At first I was disappointed and not sure if I should continue with the class. However I stuck it out and decided to stick around for the long haul. Once I made the decision I was going to keep the class in my schedule my attitude changed big time. The first couple class sessions my attitude was poor and was that of someone who didn't want to be present in class. My attitude did a 180 when I decided to stay in the class and began to see the class in a positive light. I got over the fact that business leaders from the community weren't coming in. I began to listen and actively participate in discussion. I began to see the importance of having campus leaders come in. Right now in my life I am a student on the campus of UK trying to better myself everyday. Well this class is perfect because you so many different campus leaders that are involved in so many different organizations. The broad spectrum of guest speakers allowed the class to share in the beauty of UK. These speakers helped me realize my appreciation for UK and how I want to help give back to the University I have loved my whole life.

I believe I was an active participant in the E.L.I. 2005 Fall Class. As I said earlier my I needed a good kick in the butt to realize the importance of the class. One of my favorite things

about this class was that it allowed to me voice my opinions and hear everyone else's. This type of discussion aloud me to rethink my opinion on the subject matter and maybe change my opinion OR maybe I changed someone else's opinion. That's the beauty of class discussion in E.L.I. Everyone has his or her own opinion and we all had the opportunity to voice it over the semester. Activities I participated in such as Mafia and the ropes course were exciting and allowed me to develop stronger relationships with my classmates. To this day I remember how fun the ropes course was. I couldn't believe that this was part of a college class where every class is basically a fifty-minute lecture. I remember running around throwing hula-hoops and see the faces on my friends as they walked by. I was a blast while they were off to another power point lecture. Not only did the ropes course allow me to take a trip down memory lane back to the fourth grade I learned more about classmates that day then I usually do in a whole semester in every other class. To this day I still don't see how we got out of the human pretzel.

E.L.I. lead to my active participation in many other areas. I have become more involved with the fraternity. I moved on from social chair to rush chair for the upcoming year. Social chair was a fun position but I wasn't necessarily making a huge difference in the fraternity. I wanted to have a big impact on the fraternity that would create positive change. Now that I have moved up the ladder to rush chair this is my chance. It is now my responsibility to recruit students that I envision being a benefit to Sigma Alpha Epsilon. I am allowed one week with the help of each fraternity brother to recruit a new pledge class. Since I am elected rush chair it is my responsible to plan the events for rush, motivate everyone to participate, and get everyone to believe in my goals for rush. The my main concern is that rush numbers have been low recently and I believe that I can create a change in rush numbers during rush week at the SAE house. One important concept I have learned is that leaders should make positive changes. When giving my speech to

the chapter during elections I talked about the change I think I can make. I discussed my goals for rush and what work needed to be done to accomplish those goals. I plan to apply many things from E.L.I to this upcoming rush. I have somewhat created a vision for the fraternity that applies to rush. Also if I am to lead the fraternity through a successful rush I must delegate task. Well, just last night I appointed a new member to be my connection between his pledge class and mine. The reason for this was since that I am no longer a freshman and out of the loop he would be resource man for freshman. He would be my connection south campus. He would relate information between his pledge class and myself. I believe in order to get a big pledge class you have to involve your new members in rush. They are the younger members or the fraternity; who live in dorms, eat in the cafeteria, and have huge classes with hundreds of freshmen. The point of rush is to recruit young students who you foresee being a benefit to your fraternity. I plan to capitalize on this giant resource I have available with the new members. One important thing I know I can't do is spread myself too thin. I need to have people who I can trust help me with the chores of rush. This approach to rush has resulted of my new knowledge on leadership.

E.L.I had a tremendous impact on me that I never could've fathomed. I am sorry to see this class end because it has such a profound impact on my leadership style. I still don't think I know enough about leadership and it has become a topic that I am greatly interested in. With all the knowledge available on leadership, a good leader will just not just accept a little information on leadership. I believe a good leader will continue to educate his or her self. E.L.I. has persuaded me to continue my education on leadership. I have already noticed several big changes in my approach to leadership and I think there are many more strides I can take to become a better leader before I can graduate college. One thing I regret is not participating in the John Maxwell lecture. According to Grace he had a tremendous affect on her life. Listening to Grace

tell her story of how she overcame so many challenges and succeeded beyond what anyone had expected had a huge impact on me. I really enjoyed her story when she addressed the class. She inspired me in so many different ways and she her story was something we could all relate to as well as making her interesting to listen to. Some of the things I learned in E.L.I. that I apply to everyday life is a vision and working to fulfill the mission statement. Also I love the 10-80-10 theory of delegating tasks. I think the 10-80-10 is a great approach to succeed when delegating work to someone else. Not spreading yourself too thin is something else I have applied to my everyday life. Since I don't want to spread myself too thin I try to only involve myself in causes that I am passionate about. This theory keeps me from getting over involved and not being able to have a positive effect on the organization I am involved in. However I seem to struggle constantly with this problem. I find myself sometimes spread too thin not allowing me to focus all the attention necessary to the organization I am part of. My goal for next semester is to not spread myself too thin. However I am already starting to notice that I might be busier than ever next semester.

One of my favorite classes during this course was when we participated in those personality tests. On two separate occasions we took the test in class, both times my test resulted in a C personality. I do believe that the results were true because I fit the description almost to a tee.

E.L.I has had a tremendous effect on my life. I have been able to apply what I learned in the classroom to the leadership positions I currently hold. With the leadership techniques I have learned in class have greatly affected my leadership ability. One thing I have noticed is my I now focus more on making a change than just keeping the boat afloat. I really wish there was an E.LI 200 level class I could take in the future because I think there is still tons of improvement that

can be made to my leadership skills, however just because there isn't a 200 level class will not stop me from looking for opportunities to improve my leadership abilities.

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