

## **Loren Novelli**

### What is ELI?

I have always been a so-called leader, but I never really knew what that meant to me. I would always take on leadership roles in clubs and activities, but I'm not sure if I really did much to improve the organizations. The Emerging Leaders Institute is an opportunity to realize your own leadership skills and potential. The class has given me an opportunity to practice skills I will be using for leadership in my own life. Already this year I have been officially recognized twice for outstanding leadership, and I attribute this to actually focusing on how to Be a good leader rather than how to Look like a good leader.

### The Classroom

In the classroom we have discussions and classes on essential leadership concepts that will challenge you to think outside the box. It is a room full of intelligent people who are trying to grow as leaders just like you. ELI classes are not designed to have speakers come in a lecture at you; they are designed to start the wheels turning in your own mind about what you think on a particular topic. Although I found every one of the classes important and interesting, it would be impossible to discuss all of them in this paper. I will, however, talk about a couple of the classes I found most useful to my own personal leadership development.

The first class of the year, we took the Meyers-Briggs indicator. This is an instrument (kind of like a test) used to determine each person's leadership preference. After discussing how each „type% of person had a different, but equally good, leadership style I realized that there is Not one kind of leader. Leaders come in all different types and you can,t expect everyone to think like you. Some leaders are caring and compassionate while others find it more efficient to be ridged (rigid) and strict, as a good leader you have to recognize this and be able to work with their differences. Also, Louise Stone's class on community assets and community partnerships aimed to make us think about what the community needs really are rather than what we think they need. My individual leadership project was constructed for an organization that I am involved in, so I was able to determine the need, but for future reference I will know not to assume I know what a particular group needs.

### Individual Leadership Projects

Individual leadership projects are where you get to take everything you learn in ELI and apply it to something worthwhile. I learned a lot about myself and got some practice that I would have never gotten had I not been in ELI. In my project I planned a class for Army ROTC basic course cadets to discuss problems and prejudices facing women in the military. I had to first get the plan approved by the ROTC cadre, set up a date and time, schedule a guest speaker, and make sure the whole thing ran smoothly. I learned that the chain of command in the Army is necessary but it takes a long time to get anything done if you,re starting from the bottom level.

### Presentations

My presentation was a huge part of my leadership development. As a future Army officer

I will be required to give orders to large groups of people. I started out by preparing an operations order for my project (which I will also be helpful in my years to come in the ROTC). The day of my presentation I put our class into a modified formation and showed them what the ROTC is like. I had them standing at attention, left face, about face, etc., and then read them the Op order. I wanted them to see how I felt the first few weeks of training and to see what I would be using my ELI knowledge for in the future.

#### Wrap up

ELI definitely falls in to the category, you get out of it what you put in to it. It can fit with every different leadership style and is an amazing self-realization class. Don't be afraid to let yourself shine!