

ELI Final Summary Paper

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Coming into the Emerging Leader Institute, I knew slightly what to expect. I first found out about the institute from a fraternity brother of mine. He described it as a place to grow as a leader and to meet friends who are leaders throughout campus. Also he said it helped shape him into the leader he is today. Being at he is a member of our Executive Council and my “big brother” in the fraternity, I took him at his word. It sounded like a great opportunity to me so I applied. I thought knew what to expect from the class but boy was I wrong! The lessons I have learned and the people I have met, have been a huge impact on my life as a freshman here at the University of Kentucky. When I applied, I knew that it would be a great class for me to take. It was more than I could ever hope to learn and experience from one class.

Several classes have left a meaningful impact on not only my life but my leadership style as well. The project management class was one that was very beneficial to me. I have already begun to use its principles as I plan for my fraternity’s fall philanthropy event, the Sigma Alpha Epsilon /Alpha Delta Pi Christmas Party. Beth Kuhnhein and I have begun to lay plans for further discussion starting with the fall semester. We are both in charge of the event this upcoming year. We will be putting a committee together to sit down and think of any problems that may occur and also try to address any questions that the committee can think might be asked. This is a result of ELI. It is my hope that this will help us make this event run much smoother than it did

last year. Everything that could go wrong did last year. We hope for a vast improvement this year. So far, we have a great beginning for our project in the fall!

Another class that has helped me was the class on Myers-Briggs class. I really appreciate this class as it provided me with a better understanding of myself. The results of the test labeled me an ESTP. Upon further reading the profile, I found this to be a perfect match. The information provided by the program has helped me expose some of my weaknesses as a leader such as my planning and organization. I have now started to work on overcoming those weaknesses that I have. This will not only help me in being a leader, these weaknesses are problems that also plague me in school. By working to correct them, I am helping to “kill two birds with one stone” so to speak. I also know not to let my life fall into a routine or I will be extremely unhappy. We all want to enjoy our lives and I am no different. That is one lesson I have been taught.

Not all of my lessons were lessons learned in the classroom. Some of my most important lessons were taught while preparing my project. As my project progressed, I found many obstacles in my path that I had not thought about before hand. Scheduling conflicts were a major problem in completing the project. Being flexible quickly became a necessity. I found that no detail should be set in stone rather penciled in with the opportunity to change if a problem arises that can not be fixed. Also I learned not to be afraid of change. When I found that I needed to change my project, I was afraid that I wouldn't be able to plan and execute another service project. I was wrong. Through patience and guidance from my mentor group, I was able to change my focus and formulate a new plan which has worked for me. I love my mentor group!

From day one, we as emerging leaders began to blend as a group. We loosened up as class progressed until our present state as a group of close friends. Through our mentor groups, our class project, and class time, we have formed relationships that I hope will last. As we progress through our time here at college, it is my belief that we will continue to help each other with leadership positions on campus. The Emerging Leader Institute has left life long impressions me that place me deeply in its debt. I only hope I have given back to it as well.