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Final Paper

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ELI SUMMARY PAPER

As I walk into a classroom on the second floor of the student center on a cold Saturday morning the last thing I am thinking about is meeting new friends and tuning up my leadership skills. The Room was so big and I did not know a soul. I am not the kind of guy to be embarrassed by a group of people but I almost felt left out. This changed quickly as I took a seat. Four people jumped up and came to say hello. I was feeling a little bit better now. Little did I know that this group I was with I would be spending 5 hours a week in class and I would even hang out with them outside of class. The friendship and skills you gain in the emerging leadership institute will stay with you for the rest of your life.

Coming into the Institute I knew slightly what was going to happen. I Knew I would probably learning about leadership. I learned of this class from a fraternity brother of mine. He talked me into applying but in the back of my mind I wasn't going to get picked so I was doing it to satisfy my friend. I did not seriously think about taking the class until I got the leader that I had been accepted. I was excited and though this would be a great place for me to go and try to apply myself. I never would have thought a class could bring every member so close, but boy did this class accomplish this.

The emerging leadership institute is a wonderful class that takes students that have the drive and effort to succeed and throws them together in a class to tune up there leadership skills. If the first couple of weeks you will learn what type of leader you are. This was one of the most amazing sessions of the class. Once you start to learn what type of leader you are it becomes so clear. I learned I was a dominant leader and I can see this in my everyday life. I like to run the show, be the top dog, I am also very persuasive. When I took the test I did not realize how accurate it wa going to be. Once you learn you leadership style you can really see how this has been applied

throughout your life already, as well as how you can use this as a strength with future leadership roles.

Throughout the class you will have a different speaker every week. The speakers are very knowledgeable about their topics and they are passionate about coming to our class and talking. We have learned everything from ethics in leadership to Diversity. The one activity that really stuck out to me was the community assets presentation. When many people tackle a project they do not use their resources so to speak. There are so many helpful human beings out there just wanting to help you but many leaders are scared to step out of their comfort zone of friends and ask a stranger for some help. I could see this presentation help me with my individual project I have done.

My project was to get the word out about the March of Dimes and its wonderful cause. My aunt was a mother of premature twins at 23 ½ weeks and only one survived. This organization is very dear to my heart and worked well for my individual project. I was going to accomplish this by putting out brochures and posters around campus as well as set up a station. I did not know who to go to for this information so I asked my aunt who is a mother of a premature daughter, she got me in contact with the Lexington leader of March of Dimes and it was very simple to get the material I needed to complete this project. Sometimes it is hard for people to step out of their comfort zone, with this presentation I was able to step out of my comfort zone and meet with a complete stranger, which turned out to be an extremely beneficial portion of my project.

I never thought a leadership class would be able to drive me to work harder and become even more involved in my community, school, and fraternity. The institute has the ability to put you on the right step and send you off into the world with a built confidence to succeed. I recently ran for intramural chair for my fraternity. I was not elected because of my lack of seniority but many believe I have a great shot next year. I will not give up because I was defeated, ELI has taught me to never give up and I will work harder to get that position next year. I also have a new found interest in student government. There is a strong possibility you will see me on the ballot and hopefully in office come next elections.

My lifelong goal is to own my own business. ELI has further more advanced my chances as well as my confidence

that I will one day own my own business. I had never been so excited about going to class than I was about ELI. I knew in the back of my head that this class could be one of the most important ones I take my entire college career. This class has no doubt made my goal even closer.

A lot of people say why I should waste my time on a stupid pass fail class. I have more important things to do. This class may not help you with your GPA, but it will help you with your leadership skills and help mold you into a leader that can and will make a difference in our university, city and possible nation.

In closing I would like to thank everyone in my class. I had a great time with all of you and I cherish all the friendships I have made. I would also like to thank Rachel for a wonderful experience throughout the semester. For all of you that are thinking about applying ELI it would be a great choice and you won't regret it. Thanks again to everyone I had a great job.