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ELI FINAL PAPER

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First I want to start by talking about what I did in the Emerging Leaders Institute. On one of the first few classes I remember that we did a ropes course. I had participated in both high and low ropes course prior to the class and I was looking forward to sharing the experience with my new class mates. The reason I think I liked the ropes course we did in ELI was because of the trust run. We were still in our shells when we did this activity and many of us were not acquainted and we were force to trust complete strangers. I feel that by forcing us to trust each other in the beginning our bonds were built quickly, which worked out perfect.

Next I would like to talk about all the presenters. I think that the majority of my fellow classmates would agree that there were a few presenters who were wonderful and then there were a few who were...well not so wonderful. Despite the previous fact I did learn several helpful tips and lessons from the presenters. I believe it was Dr. Voss who talked about honesty. I really enjoyed the different views that he presented to our class. It makes me wonder if people are telling me the truth sometime.

A few other things that I loved were the presenter, Dr. Holbein, who let us go outside and try to get names of people. I felt that I was able to work closer with a few other classmates and try to reach a goal. Which was one of the points in the book...inspire a shared vision. So in all I took a lot from our presenters.

Now I would like to focus on our group project. I was extremely moved that the class chose my mentor group's project. As Blake would say, "we are the best mentor

group.” I think that most of the class was excited about working with the children (with the exception of Tom). I think that we were given a large responsibility and I think the class rose to the occasion and put our differences aside and we all worked together to complete the project.

I think that many of us were surprised at ourselves. I know that I had my doubts at first, because I am horrible at planning things for kids and I knew that I would have to help some where else. I feel that we came together really well and I think it was because we were not doing something for ourselves like working on our individual projects or doing something to receive anything. We were doing the project for the kid’s sake and for their parents. From the feedback I believe the project was a huge success and I would have to say it was my highlight of the whole semester.

The last activity I would like to talk about is my individual project. At first I tossed around what seemed like hundreds of ideas. Finally when I decided on raising money to send the Ohio County FFA officers to the Washington Leadership Conference, I felt that maybe I would not be able to pull it off. However with the encouragement of my mentor group, friends, old agriculture teacher, and parents I began the actual process of getting items donated.

For this project I had put some of the skills that the book talked about into action. So that was exciting to actually see the stuff the book talk about in action. I put several of the practices of leadership into action.

So moving on...what impact did the Emerging Leaders Institute have on me? Well to be truthful none...no just playing. Actually I think the class had more of and impact than I had expected. For me the class was just something to put on a resume to

impress people but as the semester went on I found myself rethinking my motives in past leadership experiences. I question myself a lot in the class and I questioned how I went about things.

I feel that by listening to the presenters, Angel, Jarred, Kenton, and my classmates I picked up several things that will help me in future leadership positions. Hopefully I will be able to enable others to act, inspire a shared vision, and model the way. I also hope that when I have help I am able to give positive rewards for those who work with me and for me.

I learned a lot from the Emerging Leader Institute. One thing was that there are many types of leaders. You have those who are forth right and stern, and then there are those who are gentler. I also learned what it means to be a good leader, a successful leader, and an effective leader. Hopefully I will be able to take these things and apply them to my future and to my leadership projects.

So what did this experience mean to me? Once again I will be honest and say at first I had second thoughts and considered withdrawing. I felt that I had gotten in over my head and I was intimidated by many of my classmates. Yet I have always been taught finish what you start. So I thought what the heck... the worse that can happen is I waste a few hours a week and come out with a wonderful resume filler. On the reverse side of the issue I am glad that I stuck it out.

After I got to know about the different types of leaders I began to think more about each person in the class. So what if they were different and seemed to intimidate me...maybe that is why I was here. I then understood why my fellow ELI'ers were so intimidating...in fact they were not intimidating they were just like me, leaders in their

own way. This also helped me understand how I might come off to people who do not know me that well. So I have to say that I by learning about the different ways people lead have helped me understand my self and my friends who are leaders also.

Now what will I do because I have experienced this? Well let's see I hope to make a difference...as corny as it sounds. I am a public service and leadership major so this whole class works into what I want to do. Now I feel that I am better equip to go out into the world and have an impact on other people's life. I know that I can list several people, who are leaders, that have had an impact on my life and the direction it has went and I just want to return that to other people. So I hope that I will take action and model the way for others.

Where do I go from here? Well I go on to graduate school and then onto law school. Its not where I go but how I go...or at least that is how I see it. If I go onto be a fast food worker then it's the people I have lead that matters and the lives I have changed. However I hope to go on to accomplish my goals and on the way I want to show others that you don't have to come from money to be successful. I hope to influence young people and encourage them to get involved with things like government because in several years we will be reaping the benefits that we have sown or not sown. I think that by learning about leadership I will be able to accomplish my goals.

So how am I different? Wonderful question. First I am more open to different types of people and different types of leadership. Second I am more likely to take charge and try to help people and work diligently for something I am passionate about. Third I am different because I have taken something from each class mate, and hopefully it will be useful in the future.

Last I would like to thank Jarred, Angel, and Kenton. Each one of you have been wonderful examples of leaders. Thanks for pushing us in the direction we needed to go. I look forward to working with all of you guys in the future. It's be real...real fun!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!