

Task Zero: "Rocking the Boat"

Skim and Review

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While waiting, what seems like, forever for my copy of "Rocking the Boat" I read the two chapters online and wanted more. I have gone through 'leadership' programs before and did not learn a thing from them. I don't know if it was because I wasn't in the right frame of mind or if the program was lacking. But, I do know that I have not felt worthy enough to be someone else's leader.

Leadership. Leadership is a strange word. When I think about the word leadership I remember all the horrible leaders I have had over my lifetime. I try and remember all the good leaders and I don't give them as much thought or opinion as I do the ones that irked me so. However, in the first two chapters of "Rocking the Boat" the author had me thinking of those that weren't necessarily 'leaders' but influenced me to become the person I am today. Those first chapters had me questioning what type of leader I have been and what type of leader I want to be in the future/today.

My first school I taught at the principal tried very hard to push me into a leadership role by putting me on committees, having me present at meetings, leading teacher discussions, and by sending me to area meetings. I was not comfortable in any sort of leadership role. I was just trying to be a leader in my classroom. He kept saying he saw something in me and wanted to pull out all the potential, I just wanted to run for the hills. I didn't want to be those horrible leaders I had encountered throughout my life and I believed those were the only types of leaders that existed. I was wrong. The example stories in the first two chapters opened my eyes to a person that I would never define under the word 'leader', because I thought of leader as a bad person or interpretation. Again, I was wrong.

Patience, small movements, support, solutions, ideas, open minded, work ethic, understanding, and many more, are the words I should of been using to identify a leader. When I think of a leader using those such words I smile. I smile because I think of wonderful people in my life that have helped me strive to be better at ALL aspects of life not just the professional one.

Which leads me back to what type of leader I have been and/or what type of leader I now want to be. I want to be a leader that brings a smile to someone's face when they think about who had molded them into the individual they most respect and other admire. Selfish? Absolutely! But after I finish reading the book, that will never come, I will hopefully see the word 'leadership' in a different and more positive light.