

Leadership is a very broad term, and it comes in many different forms. Whether it is actually being the head of a group or just setting an example for those around you, we all lead in some way or another every day. It is up to us how we choose to affect our peers, and we should strive to have a positive effect on others. One way to do this is by exhibiting servant leadership. Servant leadership is a style of leadership in which a leader acts with the good of the group at the front of her mind. The main four characteristics of a servant leader are selflessness, empathy, dedication, and humility.

The word servant says it itself; a servant leader is one who serves others. They strive to help their peers and teammates as well as they possibly can, even if they don't gain anything from it. They are selfless in their actions, and they believe that helping their teammates is more important than personal gain. Servant leaders are also empathetic toward their peers. In order to best serve and work with a group of people, a servant leader must possess the capacity to understand and relate to their situations. Only then can a trusting relationship be developed between the leader and his or her coworkers, which is imperative for the proper function of a group. The third characteristic that a servant leader exhibits is dedication. A servant leader will work tirelessly to better herself and those around her because she knows that any goal is within reach. He or she believes that if only one works hard enough and encourages others to do the same, he or she will achieve whatever they set out to do. The last characteristic of a servant leader is humility. It is easy for anyone in a leadership position to allow the power to go to one's head, and this is often accompanied by poor decision-making on their part. Humble leaders know that what they are doing is for the greater good, and they strive to use their power to help others, not to inflate their own egos.

Arguably, servant leadership is one of the most effective forms of leadership because a servant leader will always strive to do good by their peers, themselves, and their cause. One arena in which servant leadership is particularly important is in our government. Our elected officials should display servant leadership because first and foremost, it allows the people to be happy and to thrive in their own lives. When an elected official exhibits servant leadership, the people no longer need to worry about whether their officials are competently running their state. The people know that a servant leader will do right by them, and with that knowledge, they are able to grow in their lives rather than worrying. Another important result of our elected officials being servant leaders is that tasks are tackled more efficiently. When our leaders are empathetic and dedicated, they are able to boost their team's morale and therefore know that tasks are completed in a timely manner. Servant leaders in our government also set an example for others to follow. When a community's state leaders are servant leaders, and people see positive changes in their lives because of it, they are compelled to act the same way in their everyday lives. In the long term, servant leadership will improve our country as a whole as people become happier and more accomplished, tasks are completed more efficiently, and people are compelled to be better leaders in their everyday lives.

In every system, there is some sort of leader, and that leadership comes with power. This power is often abused, but when people appoint servant leaders, they know that their leader will be capable because of their selflessness, empathy, dedication, and humility. All these traits are necessary for a servant leader, and they all contribute to the leader's ability to best serve his or her people, which is especially evident in our government. In conclusion, servant leaders allow a group of people to work to the best of their abilities. People have an inherent need to be supported and understood, and a servant leader does just that.