

6.1: Chapter Introduction

Introductory Exercises

1. Please indicate your favorite superhero, movie star, or inspirational leader that you perceive has qualities worthy of learning from to apply in your own life. What traits or behaviors to they possess or exhibit that inspire you and why? Please share your results with your classmates.
2. Please list five facts, points, or things about you that you would want an audience to know about you as a professional. Post your results and compare with classmates.
3. Leadership Interview

Name of Student: _____

Name of Person Interviewed: _____

What is leadership? Do you think leadership is the same now as in the past, or will change in the future?

Management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right things. - Peter Drucker, economist, management guru, author (1909–2005)

A good leader inspires others with confidence; a great leader inspires them with confidence in themselves. - Unknown

Getting Started

Leadership in groups and organization can be an opportunity and a challenge. How we approach it can make all the difference. In this chapter, we explore what leadership is, how we become leaders, the role of teamwork and interdependence in leadership, and finally diverse forms and representations of leadership in action.

Leadership is a complicated and mystery thing. Is it a behavior or set of actions? Is it a talent, that some are born with while others are not? Is it an ability to communicate clearly and effectively with contagious enthusiasm? These are some of the questions we'll address in this chapter but first let's be clear: There is no universal definition of leadership. Across cultures what we consider leadership varies greatly, and yet we know it when we see it. We are not born with it, but our experiences can influence our ability to act when the context demands action.

Communication is learned, not innate, and how we learn to follow, and to lead, is a reflection of that process. We can learn to lead in more effective ways. We can solve new challenges in collaborative ways. We can respond to a crisis with skill and expertise, learned from drill and practice. We can make a difference in the groups in which we participate, as leaders or followers. In this chapter, we explore the many fascinating aspects of leadership.

This page titled [6.1: Chapter Introduction](#) is shared under a [CC BY-NC-SA 3.0](#) license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by [Michael Brown](#) via [source content](#) that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

- **8.0: Chapter Introduction** by Anonymous is licensed [CC BY-NC-SA 3.0](#). Original source: <https://2012books.lardbucket.org/books/an-introduction-to-group-communication>.