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### Midterm Paper

Leadership is the ability to motivate a group of people to accomplish an end goal and to be a well-rounded and successful leader, some specific traits and characteristics should be possessed. The traits that a leader holds will have different impacts on the efficiency and motivations of their subordinates and the organization as a whole. I believe that the most important traits a leader can possess are empathy, reliability and accountability, and communication. These three traits come together to create a leader that a team can depend on and feel comfortable with, as well as someone with who they can create a strong relationship. When members have a leader that they can trust and have mutual respect, an organization becomes more motivated and successful in reaching their end goal.

One of the most valuable traits in a leader is empathy, which is when one can understand and share others' feelings. Empathy is important in a leader because it gives them the ability to predict what subordinates will feel about decisions that need to be made. Whether that reaction may be positive or negative, a leader can strategize duties and tasks to make members of the team efficient and motivated. During difficult times within an organization, a leader that possesses empathy can share the feelings of their subordinates and know the best method of working through the obstacles. Empathy leads to deeper communication and understanding of the motivations of members within an organization, which aids in strategizing to become a more cohesive team.

A successful leader is someone who can be relied on by their subordinates and can be held accountable for their actions. During times of need within an organization, a leader should be available for the needs of the team and its members. When subordinates know that their leader is someone who they can depend on, they are more likely to come to them with any challenges that are being faced. Reliability in a leader leads to efficiency and more motivation from an organization because subordinates know that they have someone leading them that will produce results and follow through on their commitments. A leader who can be held accountable by their subordinates is transparent when questioned about their motives and decisions. They can also take responsibility for their actions when a mistake is made or a decision does not turn out as originally planned. This accountability benefits the organization and the work of the subordinates by showing the team that they are involved in the goals and expectations that are set, and that the leader is not exempt from making mistakes. This can lead to improved performance from team members and more employee participation.

Communication is a leadership trait that can improve subordinates' performance and their attitudes towards goals. A leader having communication with their subordinates means that they are transparent with their goals and decisions. Being able to clearly express ideas or concerns with subordinates helps to avoid miscommunications or errors, and allows for team members to understand the goals of the organizations and tasks that they are given. Having open communication within a team or organization also encourages members to feel more comfortable giving their input and suggesting ideas, which brings more diversity of ideas into strategizing which can benefit the success of the team. Along with communication, honesty is also an important trait for a leader to possess. Being entirely transparent about the positive and negative happenings of the organization builds trust among its members and helps to gain their respect.

Being a leader who can motivate and inspire the members of an organization requires specific leadership traits and characteristics. An empathetic leader can strategize decision making according to the emotions and reactions of subordinates, to help efficiency within an organization. Knowing that a leader can be relied on and be held accountable for their actions allows for a team to be transparent and to know their expectations. A communicative leader can open new ideas within an organization and inspire motivation among subordinates.