

Name

Assignment Title

Date

4-Hour Research Assignment Sample

Bad Leadership

What is leadership? When somebody talks about a leader, they are referring to somebody who is in charge, somebody who tries to lead people to the right path, and somebody who is understandable and wants good for others. So, when we talk about leadership, we mean somebody who has the ability to lead. I would say usually you are born with it, but of course it is possible to learn how to be a good one. But, some of the qualities that a born leader would have (like passion) can be hard to learn if you are not born with it. In this world, there are good and bad leaders, and as everything, this is a very subjective matter. Somebody who would be a great leader for me may be the worst leader for another person and vice versa. Three people that I think are examples of bad leaders are Mark Zuckerberg, Donald Trump and Lance Armstrong.

My first example of a bad leader is Mark Zuckerberg. Mark is the founder of the world famous social media app, Facebook. He started his career with great leadership qualities to make Facebook succeed. Some years after that happened, Zuckerberg decided to allow “misinformation to spread on its platform” as Margaret Sullivan’s article in Valley News explains. He became a bad leader after not telling the truth to the people that followed him.

When people realized that had happened, he did not do anything about it and kept avoiding to change. Another sign of bad leadership is that “the same people are leading that company that

have always led that company” (Frenkel, 2:04). From my point of view, a good leader after news like that, after everybody knows you have lied and you are not going to do anything about it, should resign. Zuckerberg does say he is responsible for what happened to his company but still does not step aside. A good way to have handled that situation as a good leader, in first place, it would have been to not let all this misinformation get into his app. If that had happened anyway, the next step would have been to leave the company just because you would have known you did it so you have to take responsibility for it.

Another example of bad leadership would be the actual current President of the United States, Donald Trump. Leaving apart politics and his beliefs, Donald Trump “embodies the definition of a bad leader” (Bridges). Bridges’ article is based on some discussions from experts in business and academia. Trump does not have any of the qualities mentioned in the article. One of those qualities is being careful about his decisions. When a leader makes a decision, this can be very powerful. In case of Trump, of course his decisions can affect to the whole world. This is something to really think about. When you are the President of a company, a school, a building, etc., your decision probably won’t go as far as that, but when you are a president of a country, where your decisions do affect to millions of people, companies, schools and buildings. A good president needs to think a lot about the long term consequences, and too because this President won’t be president forever so you have to think about the future. Donald Trump, instead, has been acting almost all the time as a result of the short term pressures. Which in long term, won’t be good to anybody. In this case, a way to become a better leader would just be to start to be honest with the American population. He could try to think about all the probable consequences of all his decisions and actions.

The last example of a bad leader is Lance Armstrong. He is a former cyclist who had a

doping scandal in 2013 (Wilson). That is basically the biggest lie an athlete can say, and so is the worst type of leadership. I believe an athlete is a leader as a matter of fact. An athlete is somebody who has passion in what he does and who has to motivate his team so that they can all achieve what they want to. When Lance Armstrong confessed he had doped and that he did not seem to regret it, he confirmed he was a terrible leader (Marshall). He did not show any empathy for any of his rivals that had been competing against him without doping. And he showed too that he was not being honest for a lot of years. The article mentions that “all of this is relevant to leadership because leadership is about character” (Marshall). He definitely did show what his character was. He showed lack of integrity, lack of honesty, no empathy and selfish. The way Lance Armstrong handled the situation made him a poor leader. Doping was, of course, his first bad decision, with just good consequences in short term: winning everything and being the best. Now he has cancer and he does not have that winner pride anymore. If he had think about those consequences for a moment and he had just won because he was capable of, probably all of his followers would still be proud of him and he would still be their role model.

The three examples of poor leaders I have talked about were Mark Zuckerberg, creator of Facebook; Donald Trump, President of the United States; and Lance Armstrong, a former professional cyclist. All three of them have in common they have lied to their followers and when it would come to regretting it, they did not seem to do it that much. They had in common too the not thinking about the long term consequences. They have made some mistakes they probably did because they made a decision without thinking in what could possibly happen in the future and then they did not seem to regret it. Could you imagine a world full of people not caring about how their actions could affect in the future?

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