

Ethical Leadership

Instructions

When doing the reading for this class, there are the two basic kinds of information you need to understand:

1. What are the main points or conclusions that an author accepts with respect to a particular issue?
2. What are the reasons, important considerations, and evidence that lead the author to accept that conclusion?

For our purposes, it is *information of the second sort that will be our primary concern* since our most basic task is to *evaluate the reasons and evidence* that are offered to support accepting one possible position on an issue, rather than another.

Reading

Plato. (1992). [The Allegory of the Cave]. In G. M. A. Grube & C. D. C. Reeve (Trans.), *Republic* (Revised ed., pp. 186-190). Indianapolis, IN: Hackett. (Original work written c.380 BCE).

Questions

As you read, keep these questions in mind:

1. Describe Plato's "Allegory of the Cave". What happens to those who return to the cave? Are they welcomed back?
2. Why should those freed from the cave return to its depths? Will those outside the cave actually want to return?
3. This story is typically understood as an allegory about education, however, it also seems to offer perspectives about leadership.

What do you think this story may say about leadership and the role of a leader in society?

To answer these questions you will have to reflect critically on what you have read and possibly re-read important passages.

Although I strongly suggest that you write out brief answers to these questions, you do not have to turn in written responses. You do, however, need to be prepared to speak intelligently about these issues at our next class meeting.