

Ethics of Leadership

Leadership Ethics: Theory & Practice

As you read the material for the next class, keep the questions below in mind. To answer these questions you will have to reflect critically on what you have read and possibly re-read important passages. Keep in mind that there are two basic kinds of information that you need to look for in the readings:

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 conclusion about an issue, rather than another.

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 to these issues in the next class meeting.

Reading

- Peter Northouse, "Leadership Ethics" (PDF on webpage).

Questions

1. Which theory/idea resonated most with you from this reading? Did you disagree with any one of them?
2. How do you define your personal values (internal vs. external)? How do these affect your leadership style?
3. Where do you fall within Figure 15.1 on page 380? Does your place on this figure allow/prevent you from advancing in leadership?
4. Harvard Business School (among others) takes an oath upon graduation to be ethical businessmen and women (see discussion on p. 389). Why is this necessary? What causes leaders to break this?