LDR 807-12 Leader Development: Transforming Self-Concept

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**Assignment #4 – Course Learning Journal**

The journal is a written reflection of your learning journey while working on each course. The Learning Journal integrates the essential elements of the course within your professional field of interest. The objective of the course journal is to produce a degree of acculturation, incorporating new ideas into your existing knowledge of each course. This is also an opportunity to communicate with your professor insights gained as a result of the course. The course learning journal should be 3-5 pages in length and should include the following sections:

1. Introduction –Summarize the intent of the course, how it fits into the graduate program as a whole, and the relevance of its position in the curricular sequence.

2. Personal Growth - Describe your personal growth–how the course stretched or challenged you– and your progress in mastery of course content and skills during the week and through subsequent readings – what new insights or skills you gained.

3. Reflective Entry - Add a reflective entry that describes the contextualization (or adaptation and relevant application) of new learning in your professional field. What questions or concerns have surfaced about your professional field as a result of your study?

4. Conclusion – Evaluate the effectiveness of the course in meeting your professional, religious, and educational goals.

The intent of this course focused on the development of a leader and the transformation of one's self-concept. These two concepts are closely interconnected processes. A leader's self-concept refers to their beliefs, attitudes, and perceptions about themselves, while leader development encompasses the intentional growth and improvement of leadership skills and abilities.

One's self-concept plays a crucial role in shaping one's leadership style and effectiveness. A leader with a positive self-concept tends to be more confident, self-assured, and resilient in facing challenges. This self-assurance allows a leader to inspire and motivate others, make sound decisions, and effectively navigate complex situations. On the other hand, a leader with a negative self-concept may struggle with self-doubt and indecisiveness, which can hinder their ability to lead effectively.

Leader development involves a deliberate effort to enhance leadership skills, knowledge, and abilities. This development can be achieved through various means, such as formal education, training programs, mentoring, and practical experience. As leaders engage in development activities, they often transform their self-concept.

Through leader development, individuals gain new knowledge and skills to take on leadership roles with greater confidence and competence. Their self-concept shifts as they acquire new competencies and successfully apply them in real-world situations. They start seeing themselves as capable leaders who can positively impact their teams and organizations.

Leader development often involves self-reflection, feedback, and self-awareness exercises. These processes encourage leaders to examine their beliefs, values, strengths, and weaknesses, leading to a deeper understanding of themselves. This heightened self-awareness can lead to a more accurate and positive self-concept as leaders gain a clearer picture of their capabilities and potential.

The connection between leader development and transforming self-concept is cyclical. As leaders engage in development activities and enhance their skills and abilities, their self-concept improves. This improved self-concept, in turn, fuels their motivation to continue growing and developing as leaders. It becomes a continuous feedback loop, where leader development reinforces and strengthens a positive self-concept, and a positive self-concept fuels further leader development.

**Personal Growth**

The personal growth and self-reflection I experienced in Core #1 and #2 have been powerful and humbled me. When I engage in self-reflection and examine my thoughts, emotions, and behaviors, I have gained a deeper understanding of myself, my strengths, my weaknesses, and areas that I need improvement.

Uncovering aspects of myself that I may not have been aware of or reluctant to acknowledge can be a humbling experience. Self-reflection allows me to confront my own biases, limitations, and mistakes. It has revealed areas where I may need to catch up or have made errors in judgment. This realization can be humbling because it reminds me that I am not infallible and that there is always room for growth and learning.

**Reflective Entry**

This course has given me a different perspective on how crucial leader development and self-transformation are in law enforcement. The training I received during my academy and in-service training focused on how I should think, react, and speak: it was one-dimensional. In recent times, the approach and training in policing have changed. As a law enforcement professional, it is essential to continually work on personal growth and leadership skills to serve and protect the community effectively.

Leader development encompasses cultivating essential qualities and skills to lead others and effectively make well-informed decisions. This involves honing strong communication abilities, problem-solving skills, and the capacity to inspire and motivate others. As a law enforcement leader, I must consistently demonstrate integrity, empathy, and a steadfast commitment to fairness and justice.

Self-transformation as a police officer extends beyond acquiring technical and physical skills. It necessitates my dedication to personal growth and introspection. This process entails a thorough examination of my biases, values, and beliefs and the willingness to challenge any prejudices or preconceived notions that may impede my ability to serve all community members equitably.

Self-transformation as a police officer requires my commitment to ongoing self-reflection, learning, and professional development. This commitment can involve training, workshops, and educational programs that enhance knowledge and skills in conflict resolution, de-escalation techniques, and community policing.

**Conclusion**

This course has provided me with a tool for personal growth. Self-reflection has a humbling power by revealing my limitations, mistakes, and areas for improvement. It reminds me of the endless possibilities for growth and learning, fostering a sense of gratitude and humility. I can work toward personal and spiritual development by embracing these experiences with an open mind and a willingness to learn.

The development of a leader and the transformation of one's self-concept are closely interconnected processes. A leader's self-concept refers to their beliefs, attitudes, and perceptions about themselves, while leader development encompasses the intentional growth and improvement of leadership skills and abilities.

Through leader development, I can gain new knowledge and skills to take on leadership roles more confidently and competently. As I acquire new competencies and successfully apply them in real-world situations, my self-concept shifts to a more open-minded perspective. I am a more capable leader who positively impacts my teams and organization.