**Assignment #4**

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Omega Graduate School

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 in 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, integrating

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.

**Introduction**

The "Leadership Development: Self Concept" course is a cornerstone of my graduate Social Leadership program at Omega Graduate School. It meticulously unpacks the intricate relationship between self-concept, spirituality, and moral development – three pillars that underpin effective and ethical leadership. The course's strategic placement early in the curriculum equips students with a deep understanding of the personal dimensions of leadership, serving as a bedrock for subsequent coursework in organizational behavior, ethics, and advanced leadership theory.

By researching these foundational concepts at the outset, the course enhances our self-awareness as emerging leaders and fosters a holistic perspective on leadership that transcends mere skills and tactics. It emphasizes the importance of character, values, and personal growth in shaping effective leadership practices. As I embark on my journey towards becoming a leader of social change, this course has already begun to transform my understanding of what it means to lead with integrity and purpose.

**Personal Growth**

This course has been a catalyst for significant personal growth. Engaging with Susan Harter's developmental stages of self-concept prompted a profound introspection into my leadership journey. Recognizing the dynamic nature of self-concept and its impact on leadership style and efficacy has been illuminating. I've become more aware of how my past experiences and beliefs shape my current self-perception, and how this, in turn, influences my interactions with others and the decisions I make as a leader. This heightened self-awareness has empowered me to make more conscious and intentional choices in my leadership practice.

The exploration of spirituality in leadership has expanded my understanding of what motivates and inspires individuals and organizations. The concept of purpose-driven leadership resonates deeply with my passion for social justice and climate advocacy. Witnessing firsthand within the Citizens' Climate Lobby how a shared sense of purpose can ignite collective action and drive change has reinforced my belief in the power of values-based leadership to mobilize people toward a common goal.

Furthermore, the study of moral development through the lens of Kohlberg's theory has been transformative. By examining how individuals progress through stages of moral reasoning, I've gained a deeper appreciation for the complexities of ethical decision-making in leadership. This newfound understanding will be invaluable as I navigate the ethical challenges inherent in my work, particularly in my upcoming meeting with the Head of Political Affairs at the Embassy of Rwanda. I am now better equipped to analyze ethical dilemmas from multiple perspectives and make decisions that align with my core values and the greater good.

**Reflective Entry**

The insights gleaned from this course have immediate and practical implications for my professional field. As both a scholar in social justice and an advocate within the Citizens' Climate Lobby, I recognize the profound interconnectedness between self-concept, spirituality, and moral development in shaping effective leadership. The knowledge I've gained has already begun to transform my approach to leadership, enabling me to foster a more inclusive, ethical, and purpose-driven environment within my organization.

For example, I'm now more aware of how my self-concept influences my communication style and my ability to build trust and rapport with colleagues. By being more mindful of my self-presentation and interactions, I can foster a more positive and collaborative work environment. Additionally, the emphasis on spiritual leadership has encouraged me to seek deeper meaning and purpose in my work, which has led to increased motivation and engagement.

This course has also sparked important questions that I will continue to explore. How can I effectively integrate spiritual principles into the decision-making processes within my organization, while respecting the diversity of beliefs and perspectives? What role does moral development play in creating an ethical organizational culture that upholds social justice values? These are just a few of the questions that have emerged from my studies, and I look forward to looking deeper into them as I progress in my leadership journey.

**Conclusion**

The "Leadership Development: Self Concept" course has exceeded my expectations regarding its impact on my professional, religious, and educational goals. It has provided a robust theoretical foundation and practical tools for understanding the multifaceted nature of leadership. The course content has been both intellectually stimulating and personally transformative, challenging me to confront my own biases and assumptions while inspiring me to strive for greater self-awareness and ethical integrity in my leadership practice.

Moving forward, I am confident that the knowledge and skills acquired in this course will serve as a compass guiding me toward becoming a more effective, compassionate, and purpose-driven leader. Whether advocating for climate justice, conducting research in social change, or collaborating with international stakeholders, I am committed to embodying the principles of self-aware, spiritually grounded, and morally responsible leadership. This course has not only deepened my understanding of leadership but has also ignited a passion within me to make a positive impact on the world through ethical and transformative leadership.