LDR 807-12 Leader Development Transforming Self-Concept

Vernona Dismuke

Omega Graduate School

April 6, 2025

Professor

Dr. Curtis McClane

Assignment #1 – Core Essential Elements

1. Select One (1) Core Essential Element from the Syllabus Outline (self-efficacy,

self-concept, leader development, or developmental stage theory):

a. Create a 350-word original discussion paper (with cited sources) during the week

of the residency. Be prepared to discuss and engage with other students during

the live sessions. Post this document in DIAL.

b. Professor will check for quality of content and word-count requirements. Grade

assigned will be Credit or No Credit (CR/NC).

c. Make sure that your paper is double-spaced, Calibri font, size 11. Make sure to

include References at the end with bibliographical resources in proper

alphabetical APA 7 formatting.

SELF-CONCEPT

 The essential element this writer has chosen for study is Self-Concept. My elementary introduction into the topic of self-concept has come from pop psychology, self-help and new age literature from authors such as Maxwell Maltz and Neville Goddard. In their point of view, self-concept is singular in its focus and having a good self-concept has been said to make your life better. Self-concept in leadership can be singular or relational (Lapierre, Naidoo, Bonaccio 2012).

 In community development and other grassroots organizations in which I participate, self-identity is very much attached to your relationships with other people. Informally we say that progress is based on who you know and not what you know. Additionally, our communal and relational identity does affect our ability to see our work as meaningful. As one who has been self-employed most of my life, my connections to other people or institutions absolutely impacts my self-identity.

 I am interested in this topic for several reasons. One is that self-concept as has been noted is very similar to the idea of development assets in youth. Meaning there are a multitude of influences both personal and societal that assists youth in leading positive lives.

 As a Christian, I was taught to see myself in the image of God but not so much that I might be accused of thinking that I *am* God. This small but huge distinction has made it difficult for me to see myself as anything but who I am. My identity is rooted in how my parents, friends, and community sees me rather than God.

 I look forward to learning more about John Calvin’s doctrine of imago Dei which speaks to the inherent worth and humanity of all of us.

WORKS CITED

Lapierre, L. M., Naidoo, L. J., & Bonaccio, S. (2012). Leaders’ relational self-concept and followers task performance: Implications for mentoring provided to followers. The Leadership Quarterly 23, 766-774. [Seminal]