Purpose:
The purpose of this action guide is to challenge a few myths about leadership and connect you with opportunities that will make a difference in your own leadership development.

Description:
For many people, when they think of leadership, they may think of a CEO, an executive director for a non-profit organization, or the president of a student group. Many people think that leaders are born (not made), that leaders have to have charisma to be effective, and that leaders need to hold formal positions of power. The truth is that leadership is everywhere, and that anyone can be a leader.

In the book, “Exploring leadership: For college students who want to make a difference,” Komives, Lucas, & McMahon (2007) define leadership as “a relational and ethical process of people together attempting to accomplish positive change.” In other words, leadership is inclusive, empowering, purposeful, ethical, and process-oriented.

Directions:
1. What is leadership? Write your own personal definition of leadership.
2. Click on one (or more!) of the following links, read or watch, and learn about the kinds of leadership needed in the world today.
   1. “How great leaders inspire action” by Simon Sinek (video-TED)¹
   2. “How to start a movement” by Derek Sivers (video-TED)²
   3. “Lead like the great conductors” by Itay Talgam (video-TED)³
   4. “Learning from leadership’s missing manual” by Fields Wicker-Miuin (video-TED)⁴
   5. “The difference between winning & succeeding” by John Wooden (video-TED)⁵
   6. “The five practices of exemplary leadership” by Jim Kouzes & Barry Posner (The Leadership Challenge)⁶
   7. “The most successful leaders do 15 things automatically, every day” by Glenn Llopis (Forbes)⁷
   8. “What it takes to be a great leader” by Roselinde Torres (video-TED)⁸

¹ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qp0HIF3Sfl4
² https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V74AxCqOTvg
³ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R9g3Q-qvtss
⁴ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SpTGUT-Fvf4
⁵ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0MM-psvqiG8
⁷ http://www.forbes.com/sites/glennllopis/2013/02/18/the-most-successful-leaders-do-15-things-automatically-every-day/
⁸ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aUYSDEYdmzw
3. Now that you have learned a little more about the kinds of leadership needed in the world today, you can think about how you can gain the types of experiences that will help you cultivate your leadership potential. One of the best ways to gain these experiences is through co-curricular activities and experiences.

Click Seven Ways to Engage$^9$, and read through the opportunities to become engaged with student groups, campus leadership & involvement, volunteering, learning abroad & away, research, student employment, and internships.

**Reflection Prompts:**

When you meet with your coach, be prepared to discuss the following questions:

- How comfortable and effective are you including others? Do you understand your own motivations when you agree or disagree with others? When you interact with people different from you, are there differences you find easy or difficult to accommodate? (Leadership is inclusive.)

- Do you know how to build on your own strengths and on the strengths of others? Do you find it easy or difficult to share authority and responsibility? (Leadership is empowering.)

- Do you have clear goals and an awareness of commitments that are important to you? Do you have to get your own way, or are you able to find common purpose with others? (Leadership is purposeful.)

- Do you find it easy to act with integrity and authenticity? Can you identify the values and principles that guide your actions? Are you trusting or distrustful of others? (Leadership is ethical.)

- Do you prefer collaboration or competition? How effective are you at civil discussion, even when you strongly disagree with someone? (Leadership is process-oriented.)

- What did you learn about leadership from the article(s) you read or the video(s) you watched?

- Based on this exercise, what co-curricular activities and experiences are you interested in exploring further? Why?

- What leadership skills can you learn from these experiences?

- In what ways do you think your participation might affect your choice of academic major or future career path? Why?

- What are your next steps for becoming engaged in these experiences?

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$^9$ [http://engage.umn.edu/content/seven-ways-engage](http://engage.umn.edu/content/seven-ways-engage)