

Art-based lesson on leadership

Coaching session guide for
Adult Educators

Theme: Leadership

Activity: Coaching Session

Objective: This guide will serve as a coaching session model for educators to build their own art-based creative lesson on leadership skills.

Learning objectives and outcomes of this lesson:



OBJECTIVES

- ☐ To train on how to improve leadership skills of adult adults in a creative way through and inspired by the observation and analysis of a piece of art.
- ☐ To define the key set of skills necessary for a successful leader.
- ☐ To foster, challenge, and extent learners' curiosity, imagination, and originality as well as nature their creativity and innovation.
- ☐ To train on critical and reflective thinking.



OUTCOMES

- ☐ Learners will have discovered what core leadership skills are needed in order to be successful.
- ☐ Learners will have improved their emotional intelligence and cultural awareness.
- ☐ Learners will have experimented with creative and reflective thinking. They will have increased understandings that will enable them to enjoy working, both independently and collaboratively, to create, perform in, and evaluate art works.

Methods used during this session:



Short intros to the topic and the artwork



Self-reflection and self-learning



Observation



Guided interpretation



Practical exercise

Coaching session plan



Duration: 1 hour



Necessary equipment and materials:

- A laptop and a projector
- Handouts with the works of art to be examined
- Sheets of paper, pens and coloured pencils for a face-to-face session or computer with the necessary software for an online session

Coaching session structure and materials

Selected topic:
Leadership

STRUCTURE

1. Brief project introduction (and lesson structure).
Introduction to the topic warming-up activity.
2. Introduction to leadership: what this skill is about and how we acquire and use it.
3. Introduction to the selected piece of art.
4. Guided interpretation:
 1. Interpretation of the piece of art
 2. Analysis of the piece of art's elements
 3. The topic through the lens of the piece of art
5. Conclusions.
6. Leadership skill recap

MATERIALS

1. Coaching lesson guide
2. Database of pieces of art/literature
3. Methodology how to apply arts and literature for education, creativity and innovativeness
4. Links to sources and additional information materials about the piece of art

Suggested timetable for the session

| N. | Activities | Dedicate times |
|----|---|----------------|
| 1 | Introduction to the project. Warming up activity. | 5 minutes |
| 2 | Introduction to leadership: what is this skill about and how do we acquire and use it? | 10 minutes |
| 3 | Introduction to the selected piece of art and analysis of the related information materials. | 5 minutes |
| 4 | Guided analysis: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Interpretation of the piece of art 2. Analysis of the piece of art's elements 3. The topic through the lens of the piece of art | 20 minutes |
| 5 | Conclusions | 15 minutes |
| 6 | Leadership recap | 5 min |
| 7 | COMPLETE SESSION PLAN | 1 HOUR |

Warming-up activity to the topic introduction

The educator explains the main aim of this project: to encourage creative use of literature and fine arts into non-formal and informal education and to equip adult educators and training professionals with hands-on methodology and tools how to apply them into the educational process. And that we will focus today on the topic of leadership studied through a painting.

The educator will lead the conversation towards the “leadership” topic. The learners will be asked to do the following:

- a. Please, say with one word what leadership is to you.
- b. Please, name one person (alive or dead) who you consider a successful leader? Briefly, explain your choice.

2. Introduction to the topic

Leadership

Leadership is the art of motivating a group of people to act toward achieving a common goal. In a business setting, this can mean directing workers and colleagues with a strategy to meet the company's needs.

Some people are natural born leaders, but the most of us have to acquire, develop and improve a set of the skills that make one a good, successful leader.

We could highlight the 7 key skills that all good leaders require: the ability to communicate well (communication), motivate their team (motivation), handle and delegate responsibilities (delegation); they should be honest and firm in their values (integrity), but have the flexibility to solve problems in an ever-changing workplace (flexibility), to take responsibility for both success and failure of their team (responsibility) and follow through with what they agree to do (commitment).

“Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it.”– Dwight D. Eisenhower

3.1 Brief introduction to the artwork and observation

The painting depicts the victorious crossing of St Bernard pass in May 1800 by the army under the direction of the Bonaparte, showing his triumph in Italy. Bonaparte shocked everyone in crossing the pass, which was thought to be impossible to cross during spring.

ARTWORK: Art

TITLE: *Napoleon at the Great St. Bernard / Napoleonas kertant Alpes*, Jacques-Louis David 1801



4.1 Guided Interpretation

How to interpret artworks

You should ask the learners to describe what they see / feel / understand from the selected piece of art.

The focus of this guided interpretation is on sharing personal views, feelings and thoughts of participants about the piece of art. The purpose is to encourage participants to share their opinion by pointing out that there are no wrong answers.

Possible questions:

- a. What personal associations does this image call to mind for you as a viewer?
- b. What do you think the artwork is about?
- c. What/Who in your opinion is the focus of the author's attention?
- d. Which are the challenges you think the artists faced in the realization of the piece of art?

How to analyze artworks

You should guide the analysis of the work in terms of elements that compose and/or are represented in it. You will then guide the analysis to allow the learners to elaborate their description about leadership.

4.2 Guided Analysis

Possible questions for *Guided analysis on the observed/introduced works*:

1. Is there something in this piece of art that makes you think in leadership skills?
2. Are there any elements in this painting which you can relate to the leadership? Which are they and how/where can you find them?
3. Would you be able to describe how leadership is depicted in this picture?

Support tools

Optionally you could research and provide the learners with support analysis tools chosen according to the piece of art/literature under observation

ART and LITERATURE TOOLS

How to analyze a piece of art?

Primarily

- Self reflection through a piece of art
- Color and shapes symbolism related according to the context

Secondarily

- Historical and environmental context
- Art piece and/or artist history

BUSINESS TOPICS ANALYSIS TOOLS (theoretical framework)

How do we analyze the topic?

- Key points of business and marketing strategy
- Entrepreneurial skill processes and practical examples

4.3 Guided analysis: leadership through the lens of the piece of art

You will project the painting on the screen and guide the learners' interpretation of leadership through the lenses of the piece of fine art.

Painting: Napoleon at the Saint-Bernard Pass, by Jacques-Louis David

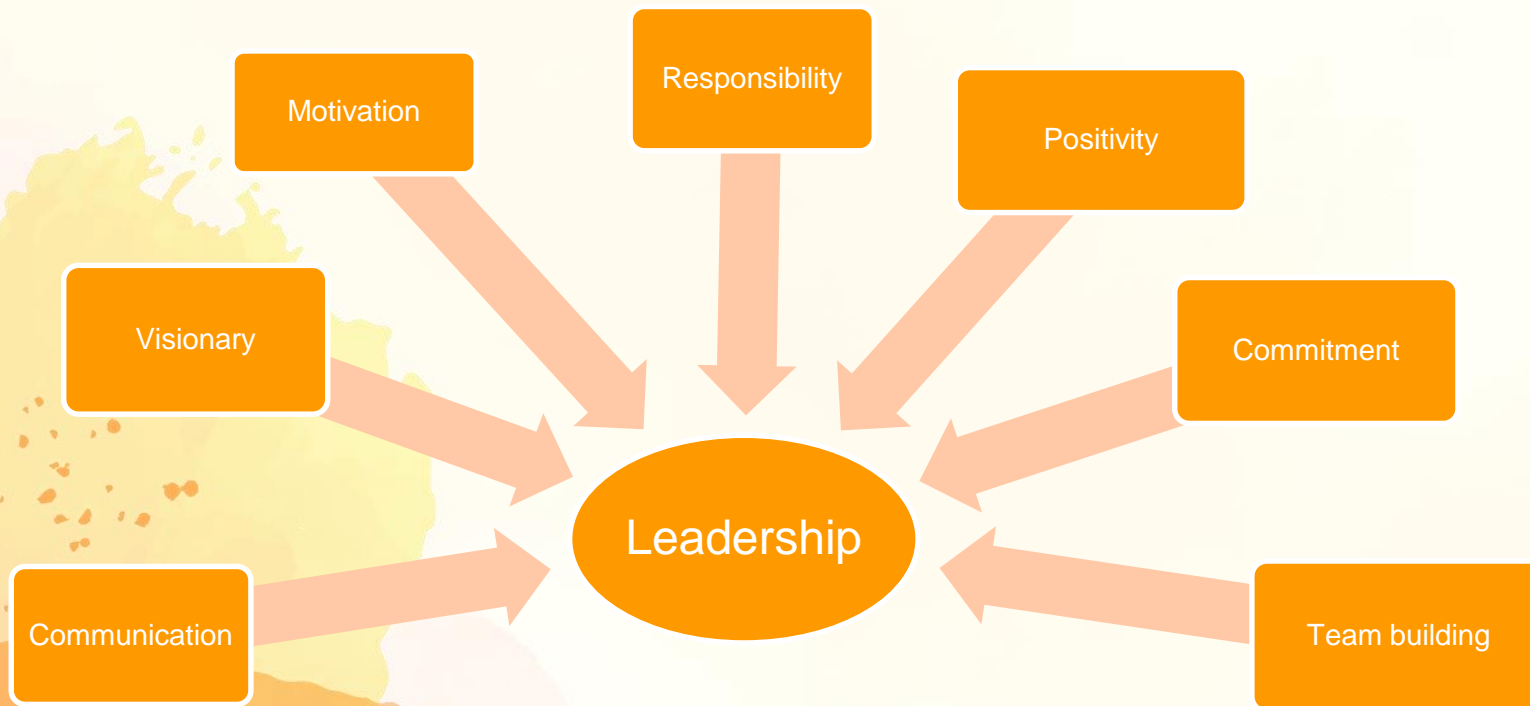
Opening question: Where can we find leadership traits in this piece of art ?

To guide this analysis, you could use the support of one or more of the following activities:

- Q&A sessions – about the topic and about the pieces of art
- Mind maps on the topic of the activity
- Practical exercise to draw their own version of artwork on the topic of activity

You should collect answers from the learners and listen to their different analysis and elaborations.

Mind map reference



Conclusions

At the end of the activity you should start guiding the group into his/her interpretation of the artwork, explaining how he/she sees the topic through the lenses of the art under observation.

Why did we chose this piece of art? (This interpretation is optional to use, and can be substituted by the educator's interpretation).

In Napoleon Crossing the Alps, the raised hand and finger undoubtedly shows the will and determination of the commander to reach his goal. It shows the observer that the victory inevitable and at the same time gives the order to his soldiers to go after him. This painting embodies the characteristics and the role of the good leader - the one showing direction, being at the front, inspiring and motivating his team to move forward, being creative and strategic etc. The showing of direction to the team (in Bonaparte's case - his soldiers) is clearly demonstrated by Napoleon's finger. His posture on the horse, holding a strong animal with one hand shows us - looking from the entrepreneurial point of view - a strong leader.

6. Leadership skills recap

Leadership captures the essentials of being able and prepared to inspire others. Effective leadership is based upon ideas—both original and borrowed—that are effectively communicated to others in a way that engages them enough to act as the leader wants them to act.

A **leader** inspires others to act while simultaneously directing the way that they act. They must be personable enough for others to follow their orders, and they must have the critical thinking skills to know the best way to use the resources at an organization's disposal.

While there are people who seem to be naturally endowed with more leadership abilities than others, **anyone can learn to become a leader**, by improving particular skills.

History is full of people who, while having no previous leadership experience, have stepped to the fore in crises and persuaded others to follow their suggested course of action. They possessed traits and qualities that helped them to step into roles of leadership.

<https://www.coursehero.com/file/70479633/leadershipdocx/>

References:

- <https://www.thebalancecareers.com/top-leadership-skills-2063782>
- <https://www.thebalancesmb.com/leadership-definition-2948275>
- <https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/501954/15-things-you-should-know-about-jacques-louis-davids-napoleon-crossing-alps>
- <https://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/napoleon/art-and-design/A-Closer-Look-Jacques-Louis-David.html>



Thanks!

Do you have any questions?

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Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



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