

My current understanding and use of the relational leadership model isn't bad. I definitely think that it needs a lot more work for my use of it to be optimal but I've been functioning with it pretty well so far. Until the reading, I didn't know that what I tried to practice had a name. Since I didn't actually know about it, I think my use of it was pretty good. In my self assessment I rated myself fully in knowing, being, doing for ethical and process-oriented. The other four I only rated myself full for knowing and being. I think that my doing could use some refinement.

I would define purposeful as knowing what the common goal is, and being focused on what it takes to get there. Inclusive involves drawing everyone into the space to share their thoughts and feelings about the goal or how to best reach it. I think it's one of the most important parts of the model because often minorities are left out of the goal reaching process. Everyone has a different perspective it's important to hear all of them. I define empowerment as creating a space that causes each participant to know that their experiences are valuable. It allows each person to know that they have a talent or knowledge that is important to the group reaching their goal. Ethical is making sure that everything you do to reach the goal is moral and doesn't hurt others physically or mentally. It is the understanding that the goal and the process of getting to it has to keep up with the people's values so that no one is sacrificing their standards for something unethical. I would define process-oriented as keeping on task with the goal. Everyone works together to get something done, and they stay on task while doing it.

I am most confident in the ethical and process-oriented parts of the model. I feel this way because I'm both very empathetic and have a strong moral compass that

guides most, if not all, of my interactions. I also try to be really educated about ethical issues and incorporate them when I'm in charge of a situation because it sucks massively to be stuck in an unethical situation. I feel pretty good about my knowledge on knowing, being, doing in this part. I feel the same about process-oriented because when there is a situation that I am passionate about, I dive right into it. I've been in a couple leadership positions and my experiences are the reason that I feel so positive about how I embody this part of the model. When I worked on the LGBT center's youth board we had to understand the team dynamic. I especially had to because I was one of the older members and the younger ones didn't know how to interact as a team yet. This pushed me to understand how best to interact with each person on the team in order to plan events and such. I was also encouraged to understand that the decision making process was as important as the decision. The same was thought about self reflection after the decision or event, because it was necessary to continue creating safe and healthy spaces for youth. I don't feel quite as strongly about the others because I'm sure that they need more work. In areas like inclusive and empowering, there is always room to grow. It feels like it would have been self praising of me to say that I was good in all three areas. I feel pretty good with purposeful but I feel like there's room for me to grow in that area too.

The service action proposal supports me in better understanding and using the model because it puts me in a place of leadership of a group. My service action proposal shouldn't be something that can be done by only one person, it should involve the whole village. That means that I have to know how to be a leader that can draw

everyone into our goal. The best way to do that is to use the relational leadership model. The village helps me to use the model because it puts all of us into a leadership role at some point. Knowing the model allows us to be efficient leaders.