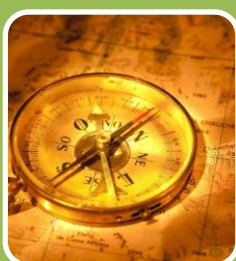




## SKY'S THE LIMIT!



The old-fashioned view of leadership is that leaders are marked out for leadership from early on in their lives and that if you are not a born leader, there's little you can do to become one. That's not the way we see it now. The modern view is that through patience, persistence and hard work, you can be a truly effective leader, just as long as you make the effort needed.



There are many definitions to the concept of *leadership*. Some are simple, some are long and complex. We like to keep things simple and we agree with J. Oswald Sanders who said that LEADERSHIP is INFLUENCE.



"Influence" can mean many things. Even the most introverted person influences around 10.000 people during his life. If you had the power to influence your surroundings, what would you do? **Start a business? Initiate a project? Motivate your friends? Solve a major world problem?** These are all great and noble ideas. The problem is that this is all they are: *ideas*.



We all have great ideas, but what keeps us from acting on them? Perhaps we believe we do not have the ability or resources to see our wishes to completion. This Comenius project was written to assist in **your journey from thought to action**. We, your teachers, are not here to invent a secret recipe for success; instead we plan to use the philosophies across a broad spectrum of talented individuals who have demonstrated a great measure of success in their respective fields and to see what clicks for us, for our project and for you as individuals.

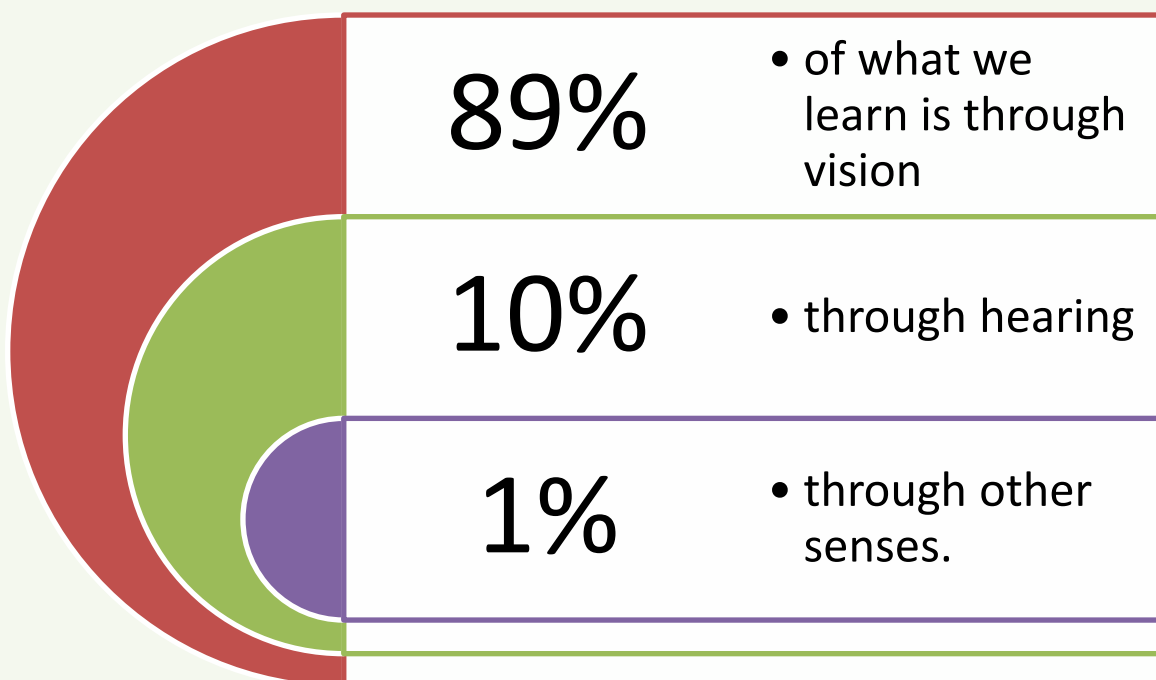


This project also incorporates ideas from the books of a distant past, to those of the distinct present. You will find a medley of old & new lessons comprised into 20 themes of self-reflective content.

Once you have determined your lenses, you can then see how your life plays into the rest of the world. It is important to define yourself in terms of your weaknesses, strengths, resources, and capabilities.



A study made by Stanford University says that,



So, in order to move forward people need to be motivated by a vision.

There are 4 types of people:

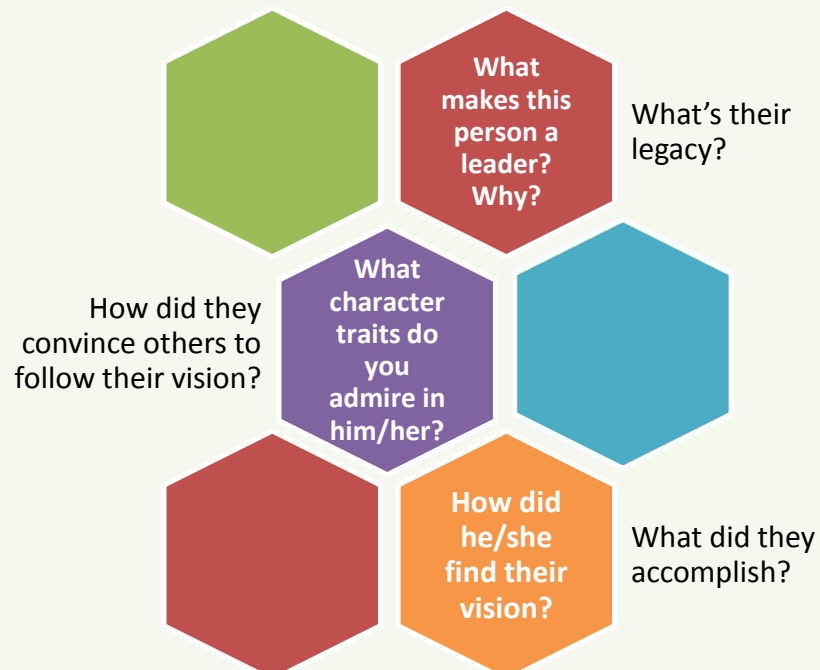


If we look at point no. 4 we see that great leaders have 2 big qualities: the first is that they know where they go and the second is that they are able to convince others to join them.

### Case studies:

- Henry Ford (founder of the Ford Motor Company)  
<http://www.hfmvgv.org/exhibits/hf/default.asp>
- Martin Luther King, Jr. – I have a dream! speech  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/3170387.stm>
- Mother Teresa  
<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/587877/Blessed-Mother-Teresa>;  
[http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/peace/laureates/1979/teresa-bio.html](http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1979/teresa-bio.html)
- Please add an important national figure as a case-study of your own.

### Discussion points:



## HOW TO DREAM YOUR FUTURE IN A VISION

In case you already know, please write down in one sentence your vision for the next 25 years of your life:



- If you feel that this was an impossible task for you, proceed to the next activity!
- Don't worry, this only means that you are normal, like the rest of us! :-)

### DICTIONARY

Vision Statements and Mission Statements are the inspiring words chosen by successful leaders to clearly and concisely convey the direction of the organization. By crafting a clear mission statement and vision statement, you can powerfully communicate your intentions and motivate your team or organization to realize an attractive and inspiring common vision of the future.

ICT activity: complete the *free of charge* CAREER QUIZ at <http://www.princetonreview.com/CareerQuiz.aspx?startover=1> (you'll need to register with your email address)

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**Try answering the following questions (don't worry if it seems that you don't have an answer for all of them; revisit them at the end of the lesson)**



#### SET A GOAL

- It is imperative that you have a **GOAL** for every action. Envisioning a future is a great source of motivation and will provide the appropriate reasons for cautiousness. This, in turn, will help with navigating around obstacles and opportunities.

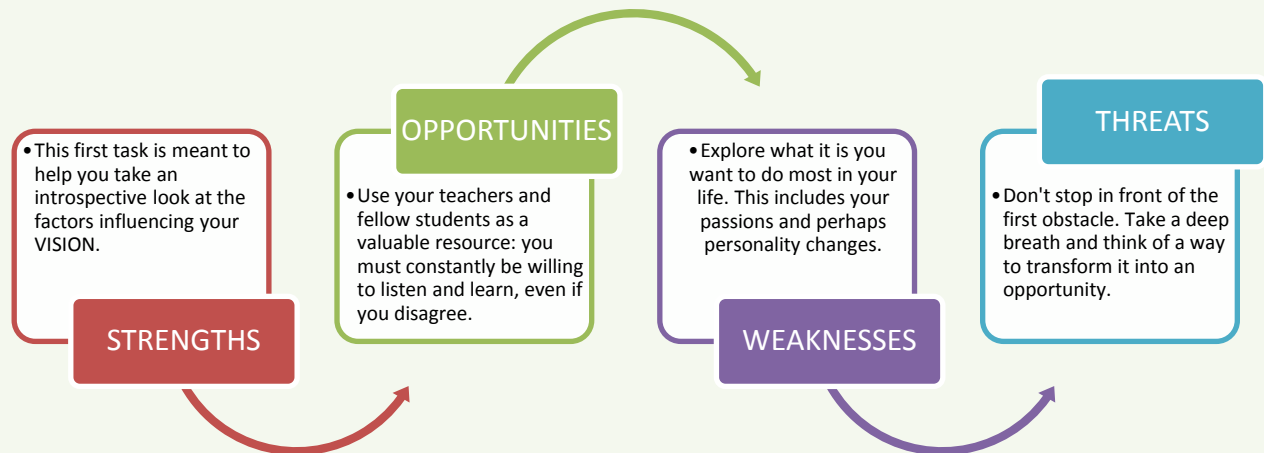
#### SEE THE BIG PICTURE

- By the end of this project you should be able to clearly visualize (from beginning to end) your destination. For the moment, focus on what the big picture looks like and how to go about identifying how a singular purpose or role fits into a larger one. It's all about framing.

#### CHOOSE YOUR LENSES

- It is also important to define the lens through which you look at your life and the lives of others. The more you understand about your lenses, the more you can predict yourself and others, and it will help you determine your consequent actions to a given circumstance.

## Your personal SWOT analysis



### Strengths

- What advantages do you have that others don't have (for example, skills, certifications, education, or connections)?
- What do you do better than anyone else?
- What personal resources can you access?
- What do other people (and your boss, in particular) see as your strengths?
- Which of your achievements are you most proud of?
- What values do you believe in that others fail to exhibit? Are you part of a network that no one else is involved in? If so, what connections do you have with influential people?

### TIP

Consider this from your own perspective, and from the point of view of the people around you. And don't be modest or shy – be as objective as you can. And if you have any difficulty with this, write down a list of your personal characteristics.



## Weaknesses

- What tasks do you usually avoid because you don't feel confident doing them? What will the people around you see as your weaknesses?
- Are you completely confident in your education and skills training? If not, where are you weakest?
- What are your negative work habits (for example, are you often late, are you disorganized, do you have a short temper, or are you poor at handling stress)?
- Do you have personality traits that hold you back in your field? For instance, if you have to conduct meetings on a regular basis, a fear of public speaking would be a major weakness.

### TIP

Again, consider this from a personal/internal perspective and an external perspective. Do other people see weaknesses that you don't see? Do classmates consistently outperform you in key areas? Be realistic – it's best to face any unpleasant truths as soon as possible.

## Threats

- What obstacles do you currently face at school/home? Are any of your colleagues competing with you for projects or roles?
- Does changing technology threaten you?
- Could any of your weaknesses lead to threats?

## Opportunities

- What new technology can help you?
- Or can you get help from others or from people via the Internet?
- Is your school profile growing? If so, how can you take advantage of the current market trends?

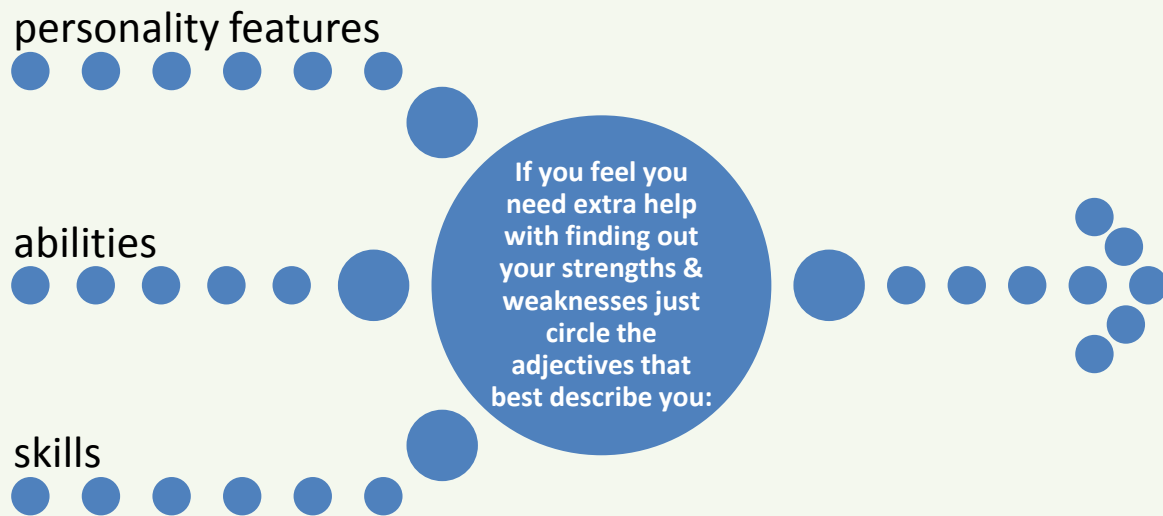
- Do you have a network of strategic contacts to help you, or offer good advice? What trends do you see around you and how can you take advantage of them?
- Is there a need in your school that no one is filling? Do your classmates or teachers complain about something in your school? If so, could you create an opportunity by offering a solution?

**TIP**

You might find useful opportunities in the following: Networking events, educational classes, or conferences, a new role or project that forces you to learn new skills, like public speaking or international relations. Do you have specific skills (like a second language) that could help with the process? Also, importantly, look at your strengths, and ask yourself whether these open up any opportunities – and look at your weaknesses, and ask yourself whether you could open up opportunities by eliminating those weaknesses

- ✓ Performing this analysis will often provide key information – it can point out what assets you possess and what needs to be changed. It also puts problems into perspective and offer you a tool for defining your VISION.

<b>STRENGTHS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What do you do well?</li><li>• What unique resources can you draw on?</li><li>• What do others see as your strengths?</li></ul>	<b>WEAKNESSES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What could you improve?</li><li>• Where do you have fewer resources than others?</li><li>• What are others likely to see as weaknesses?</li></ul>
<b>OPPORTUNITIES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What opportunities are open to you?</li><li>• What trends could you take advantage of?</li><li>• How can you turn your strengths into opportunities?</li></ul>	<b>THREATS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What threats could harm you?</li><li>• What is your competition doing?</li><li>• What threats do your weaknesses expose you to?</li></ul>



Dignified

Realistic

Alert

Warm

Discreet

Dominant

Inventive

Trusting

Daring

Accurate

Kind

Quick

Prudent

Independent

Loyal

Aggressive

Purposeful

Thoughtful

Tenacious

Thorough

Reflective

Deliberate

Pleasant

Informal

Progressive

Intellectual

Trustworthy

Efficient

Steady

Practical

Teachable

Versatile

Imaginative

Logical

Precise

Strong-minded

Discreet

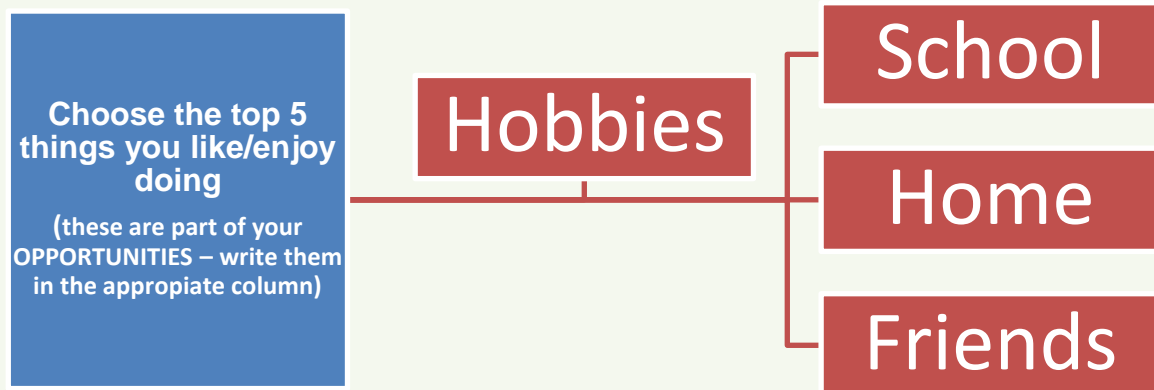
Tactful

Persevering

Wise	Confident	Adventurous
Stable	Spontaneous	Curious
Academic	Open	Adaptable
Ambitious	Moderate	Courageous
Unexcitable	Secure	Determined
Original	Successful	Energetic
Attractive	Responsible	Eager
Conservative	Honest	Mature
Cooperative	Fulfilled	Light-hearted
Sincere	Painstaking	Relaxed
Broadminded	Cheerful	Quiet
Calm	Sociable	Unaffected
Cool	Clear-thinking	Tolerant
Capable	Forceful	Patient
Considerate	Competitive	Industrious
Careful	Modest	Spontaneous
Flexible	Competent	Polite
Conscientious	Intuitive	Fair-minded
Charitable	Clever	Hopeful
Cautious	Helpful	Methodical
Positive	Introspective	Wholesome
Charming	Outgoing	Reliable
Enjoyable	Analytical	Active

Unassuming	Formal	Goal-oriented
Affectionate	Forgiving	Generous
Unaffected	Loving	Challenger
Easygoing	Natural	Opportunistic
Far-sighted	Supportive	Genuine
Likable	Healthy	Sensible
Meticulous	Consistent	Empathetic
Rational	Frank	Gentle
Reserved	Assertive	Creator
Tough	Obliging	Good-natured
Understanding	Motivated	Theoretical
Individualistic	Self-confident	Optimistic
Firm	Extroverted	Serene
Poised	Friendly	Organized
Mild	Organized	Joiner
Strong	Open-minded	Sensitive
Resourceful	Caring	Serious
Sincere	Self-controlled	enthusiastic

Now look at the list and at those skills you circled. Write between five and ten of your top skills in the STRENGTHS column on the SWOT table at exercise 1. Don't forget, some of them may also be written in the WEAKNESSES column.



Learn foreign languages

Arbitrating/mediating

Public speaking

Motivating others

Researching

Making music

Athletic activities

Sports

Implementing decisions

Leading others

Working well under stress

Risk taking

Initiating/Doing projects

Organizing people

Fundraising

Performing

Planning

Culinary talent

Networking

Keen memory for detail

Organizing data

Following detailed instructions

Mathematics

Multitasking

Arranging social events

Helping others

Scientific investigation

Delegating responsibility

Creating visual displays

Constructing

Debating

Selling

Crisis intervention

Interviewing	Business	Entrepreneurial activities
Landscaping	Writing	Testing
Traveling	Nursing	Critiquing
Team building	Diplomacy	Teaching
Inventing	Listening	Laboratory work
Proofreading/editing	Reading	Photographing
Translating	Communicating	Drawing
Mentoring	Counselling	Investigating
Negotiating	Explaining	Problem solving

## CONCLUSION

We began by defining leadership and the act of leading. We end by taking a moment to consider what the future may have to offer and the skills and tools you have when working towards your future. Moishe Rosen used to ask his students to complete the following exercise:

**If I had ....., I would .....**

**Now it's YOUR turn!**



## **HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS:**

**I HAVE A DREAM!** Describe your vision for future (5, 10 or 50 years from now) in no more than 250 words. Use relevant examples, quotes, arguments etc

**INTERVIEW WITH A VISIONARY** – think of a visionary person that you know and ask him/her to give you an interview. (TIP: assume the role of a true journalist: formulate your questions in advance, find out as much as possible about your subject, be polite and professional at all times)

**Optional: TIME CAPSULE** – practical activity for the whole class. Each student writes on a piece of paper his/her vision for the next 2, 3, 10 or 15 years and puts it together with their classmates in a container to be kept closed opened at the class reunion when they decide (usually a 10 year period).

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<sup>i</sup> Task: TEACHER organizes the students into 3-4 groups, each studying a major visionary person. Depending on the class s/he teaches and the language used (English/mother tongue), the assignment can be given in advance or the students can prepare it in class. Please provide Internet access for the students, or/and worksheets with enough information on the assigned personality.

Don't forget that while they were all great men or women, they were human as well; don't let the students talk too much about controversial subjects related to these people – mention them, acknowledge them but quickly move forward towards what interests us! ☺