Who Am I

There are many aspects to a real leader. From the past assignment, I had to work hard at realizing who I am in terms of my temperament. It was crucial to understand this, as it helped me focus on areas where I need improvement. I learned that knowing your own temperament, as well as others’ around you, lets you lead better in that you know how to use your own and everybody else’s strengths to the best potential; however, there is another important aspect, perhaps the most important, that sets a leader apart from everybody else. This is to understand what core values you have, what vision you have for your company or your personal life, and what strategy you have for reaching that vision. In this paper I am presenting my own core values, what vision I have in life, and my strategy for success. With this set down on paper, it will help clarify my purpose in life and will also help me be a better leader when the time arises.

You don’t need to have many core values to be a good leader. It is much better to have one real core value that you stay true to no matter what than many small ones that you are unsure of and that you would compromise. I myself have two core values. They are to always act in honesty, and to better society as best as I can with the abilities that I have. These are two values that I will never give up or act against, no matter what the stakes. If I ever decide to own a company, these core values will be instilled in that company so that my employees can feel them too.

I have a vision for my life in which I help people through medical discoveries and breakthroughs. For the longest time I had been interested in science, and recently within the past few years, the role of medicine and its treatment of sick people. This past year my mother found out that she has breast cancer. Because of that I have taken my vision and given it a specific goal, to help in finding the cure for cancer.

I have created a specific strategy for reaching my goal. Currently I am a bioengineering major, with a chemical engineering option. Upon completion of this degree, I will be prepared to continue my education in medical school where I will further
study the processes of the body. Having completed medical school and done residency for two years, I will be about twenty-nine years old. I will then want to work in the cancer-center of UPenn Hospital, because it is one of the best and also close to home. After some years of working with patients, I will have had enough experience to be able to start really applying what I have learned thus far into research where I will focus on aggressive cancers and how to stop their growth, as well as how to kill cancer cells safely inside the body. The culmination of my goal will be to discover a way to cure metastasis, the spreading of cancer cells around the body. Once metastasis will be curable, that will be, in my opinion, the biggest step towards completely curing cancer. I hope to fully achieve my goal by the time I’m forty years old.

If I ever have the chance to either take over as the leader of the cancer-center at UPenn, or am fortunate enough to be able to found my own research center, I will have my two core values on a plaque hanging in a place where all employees can see. Hopefully the employees will follow these values as I do, and if someone finds a cure or something beneficial, they will not try to hide it but present it to the scientific community as soon as possible so that the information can save more lives faster. This is what I believe “acting in honesty” means. “To better society as best as I can with the abilities that I have” will hopefully resound throughout the walls of the center, and inspire researchers to work their best.

A company that really inspired me in building my vision of helping me is Johnson & Johnson. I am very lucky that I will be doing a co-op with them next semester, and will get to experience first hand what it’s like to work at a top-level biomedical company. When I was researching about them I came across their credo, which is their vision statement. It really impressed me that their first care was the patients, doctors, and nurses. Money and their responsibility to their investors was the last item on the credo. Everything that they do in their company is a direct product of their credo. I had to fill out a health-questionnaire for the company before I can start working there, and in the introduction section of the questionnaire, it said that the credo states that there should be safe working conditions, so I need to fill this out so they can make sure I will be as safe as possible. Practices like this are what make me think that I can also run a company or research center with the core values driving it.
Having thought about and written down my core values as well as my vision and strategy, I feel that I am more organized and more ready to accomplish my goal than ever before. This method of thinking about what means the most to you and writing it down is something I would recommend to everybody, as it helps towards your success. I feel as though I have a clear direction that I’m headed in, and that is a very good feeling to have. Knowing now that I am on track with my strategy is the biggest motivation in getting to my goal, and I know that it will be something I will stick to until I finally reach the top of the mountain.