

Student's Name

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Course Title

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### **Characteristics of a Leader**

Leadership is a multifaceted and complex concept that requires a set of qualities and skills. These qualities and skills include a clear vision and direction, adaptability, integrity, emotional intelligence, empathy, and strong communication skills (Muteswa, 135). A great leader motivates and inspires their followers to achieve a common goal. They lead by example and are accountable for their actions. They also foster a culture of innovation, growth, and collaboration while encouraging their followers to take risks and learn from their mistakes (Muteswa, 137). Thus, a great leader is an individual who not only achieves their own goals but also helps their team members achieve theirs.

An example of a great leader is Barack Obama, the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the U.S. He is distinguished for his leadership qualities and impact during his tenure. One of the most essential qualities of a great leader is integrity. President Obama was known for his integrity. Throughout his political career, President Obama remained true to his principles of integrity even when he faced sharp criticism from the opposition (Al-Qahtani, 4). His honesty and transparency with the Americans earned him trust and respect.

Effective communication is an essential quality of a great leader. Leaders who communicate effectively can articulate their vision and inspire others to join them to achieve their dreams. During his tenure, President Obama was known for his powerful and inspiring speeches

(Al-Qahtani, 5). As a result, his charismatic nature and mastery of communication helped him connect with many people in America and worldwide.

A great leader is also empathetic and is able to connect with their followers and understand their needs and concerns. President Obama is celebrated for his empathy and aptitude to relate with people from diverse backgrounds. For instance, President Obama was quick to respond after a gunman invaded a school in Newton, Connecticut killing six adults and twenty children (Diamond, 101). He expressed his condolences to the victims' families immediately after the incident. He also spent time with them, listened to their stories, and shared sorrow. Thus, Obama was genuinely interested in the welfare of others, and his empathy for the American people was evident in his initiatives and policies.

Another quality of a great leader is strategic thinking. They can analyze complex problems, identify problems, and come up with practical and effective solutions. President Obama's ideas in his initiatives and policies were grounded in a deep understanding of issues facing Americans (Harper, 6). For instance, he introduced the Affordable Care Act, which saw millions of uninsured American access healthcare. In addition, President Obama was willing to listen to different viewpoints from various individuals and collaborated with different stakeholders to find solutions that would benefit Americans.

I admire President Obama's leadership qualities and commitment to making the United States a better place. As a young person, I am inspired by his message of change and hope. His leadership taught me the importance of effective communication, empathy, integrity, and strategic thinking. In addition, I am impressed by his ability to bring Americans together despite intense political polarization.

Overall, a great leader is an individual who has a unique set of qualities that allow them to motivate and inspire their followers to achieve a common goal. President Barack Obama is an example of a great leader who exemplifies these qualities, and his leadership significantly impacted the U.S. and the world. His legacy inspires and motivates current and future leaders to strive for excellence.

Works Cited

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