

**Score 29.8**

[Comment:] APA writing style. Document formatting needs work. Document formatting issues: vertical spacing; line spacing; reference indent; page header; section headers; font control; page breaks; bullets or lists. [Observations:] Please review APA style (references). References should not be numbered. Highly redundant and hyperbolic writing. {Integrity}: 100%. {Length}: Just a tiny bit short (97%)—try to write a bit more. {Mechanics:} 82% (spelling 100%, grammar 60%, punctuation 97%, word choice 72%). {Citation formatting:} 23%. Reference formatting: main problem area—source detail (edition, page range, date); most frequent error types—element misitalicized, attention to detail, element missing. Please look for higher-quality scholarly reference (you have textbook + common academic article + book article). In-text cite grade: B (good job formatting your in-text citations, but incomplete; textbook uncited; ref list incomplete). {Reasoning, logic:} 29% (efficiency 6%, acuity 41%, clarity 35%, objectivity 34%).

**Characteristics of a Leader**

What sets extraordinary leaders like Nelson Mandela, Malala Yousafzai, and Martin Luther King Jr. apart? While successful leaders represent diverse backgrounds and approaches, researchers have analyzed how impactful figures consistently exemplify core competencies and attributes to motivate and effectively guide others through adversity. Leadership studies have converged on influential qualities that encompass vision, ethics, emotional intelligence, decisiveness, and strategic communication. Key leadership theories emphasize the significance of articulating purpose and uplifting goals to galvanize collective action, earning loyalty through integrity, continually building critical skills and capabilities, and connecting empathetically through open and persuasive exchange (Goleman, 2000; Northouse, 2021; Riggio, 2013). This essay will delve deeper into prevailing research on resonant traits among prominent leaders who have leveraged their profound talents to profoundly transform society. Core leadership attributes to be explored encompass casting an affirmative vision, spurring motivation through inspiration, decisive yet ethical choices, emotional perceptiveness, and skill competencies, alongside conveying intentions meaningfully. Elucidating these vital characteristics provides a window into the values, knowledge, and abilities underpinning impactful agents of human progress.

Crafting an inspiring vision and strategic plan is cited by many leadership theorists as an essential starting point for influential leaders, providing purpose and direction (Northouse, 2021). Truly transformative leaders artfully communicate their vision to energize followers. Mahatma Gandhi, for example, mobilized millions through his compelling vision of nonviolent resistance to gain India's independence. Great leaders also motivate followers to buy into their vision. They establish credibility through confidence, expertise, and active listening, empowering followers to take initiative (Riggio, 2013). Martin Luther King Jr. electrified audiences through his prophetic eloquence, uniting people in working towards equality.

Decisiveness and integrity are also frequently named as vital attributes. Leaders must assess complex situations and confidently move forward on decisions guided by ethics and values (Goleman, 2000; Northouse, 2021). Nelson Mandela demonstrated sound decision-making, rising above bitterness to reconciliation. Emotional intelligence, or perceiving emotions in oneself and responding empathetically to others, has been strongly correlated with leadership excellence. Mandela paired resoluteness with empathy while dismantling apartheid.

Competency comprises the knowledge, skills, and abilities enabling leaders to oversee operations while attaining goals. As situations dictate, leaders might provide technical expertise, act strategically, or collaborate democratically (Northouse, 2021). However, leadership also demands strategic thinking to plan initiatives anticipating future needs. Competent leaders combine analytical with interpersonal abilities to democratically collaborate towards the best overarching decisions while remaining thoughtful of ethical implications. Furthermore, competency is demonstrated through communication as well, formulating a persuasive vision and enabling feedback (Goleman, 2000). Malala Yousafzai demonstrates how profound competence combines with courageous conviction. Despite intense personal risk, Malala masterfully articulates through global platforms her competence in understanding obstacles to universal education access, while fearlessly advancing policy changes towards this goal. Her demonstrated competency continues to drive progress on this complex geopolitical issue. Overall, exceptional leaders develop many capabilities while guiding collective aspirations to reality.

In summary, while strong leaders have varying personalities and approaches, exemplars tend to propose an uplifting long-term vision, motivate through inspiration, make discerning choices ethically, demonstrate emotional intelligence and competency, and communicate purposefully with those they lead and serve. With the conscious development of these capacities, individuals have tremendous potential to make a positive difference in their communities and the world.

## References

1. Goleman, D. (January–February 2000). *Leadership that gets results*. *Harvard Business Review*.
2. Northouse, P. G. (2021). *Leadership: Theory and practice (9th ed.)*. SAGE Publications, Inc.
3. Riggio, R. E. (2013). *Is leadership studies a discipline? New Directions for Leadership*. Wiley Periodicals LLC.