

Illustrate your concept of leadership and how community service experiences have impacted your life.

From a young age, I have felt a calling to make a difference and share compassion with others. As a kid, this meant helping classmates who had fallen on the playground. As a young adult, this has been serving my community by building homes, spending time with the elderly, volunteering with various non-profit organizations, and making pillows and blankets for sick children. I continue to develop leadership qualities through serving in my school, church, and National Charity League (NCL). I impact the world by being the change I want to see; I lead by example.

Through a rigorous screening process, my high school teachers selected me to represent my senior class. As a Stand-leader, I have the opportunity to lead by serving others. I guide underclassmen how to navigate and succeed and also support teachers in their classrooms. I lead the community at sporting events by promoting spirit. The Stand-leader position also nurtures leadership abilities and forces me to grow in many areas including communicating effectively, working collaboratively, managing a group, setting goals, and meeting deadlines.

For the past five years I have led my peers and community in high-profile roles. When I joined NCL as a seventh grader, I felt alone, but because I stepped outside of myself, I learned several other girls felt the same way. Upon election of class president my sophomore year, I reflected on changes to unify our diverse group of young women. Through valuable experiences like these, I discovered that small steps together can transform the atmosphere of a group. Leaders do not control what other people do: to lead, you sacrifice your time, energy, and thought for the sake of others. As a leader, I utilize the talents and skills that God gave me to band people together to accomplish common goals.

Robert F. Kennedy demonstrated leadership with these words, "The purpose of life is to contribute in some way to making things better." I make life better by serving God's people. I serve in the youth ministry by

mentoring younger students; I provide strength for their trials and weak moments. Sometimes leading others takes me outside of my comfort zone, but God guides me and gives me strength. I have also had opportunities to serve on mission trips to Chicago and Memphis by cleaning up trash, throwing block parties, and most importantly sharing the love of Christ. The greatest gift I can give is my time and love because it changes hearts and develops awareness of others' needs. Making a difference by serving others is not only fulfilling but illustrates the essence of leadership and life's purpose.