

11.3 OBSERVATIONAL EXERCISE

Ethical Leadership

Purpose

1. To become aware of the dimensions of ethical leadership
2. To assess how actual leaders exhibit ethical leadership

Directions

1. For this exercise, you must observe a public presentation of a leader in your community. This can be a pastor, a college president, a mayor, a city commissioner, the head of a social service agency, or some other community leader.
2. Record what you observe about the leader's ethics in the categories that follow. Try to be thorough in your descriptions of the leader's presentation.

Leader's name: _____ **Leader's title:** _____

Occasion: _____

1. The *character* of the leader: What was the leader like? What kind of person was the leader? What were the leader's strengths and weaknesses?
2. The *actions* of the leader: How does this leader go about accomplishing goals? Where does the leader stand on (1) showing respect, (2) serving others, and (3) showing justice?
3. The *goals* of the leader: What were the leader's main goals? Were the leader's goals clear to you and others in the audience? How would you assess the value and worth of those goals?
4. The *honesty* of the leader: What did you observe about this leader's honesty? Was the leader open and forthright? How authentic did you find this leader to be?
5. The *power* of the leader: Based on French and Raven's (1959) types of power, what kind of power did this leader exhibit? What did you observe about how this leader would use his or her power with others?
6. The *values* of the leader: Based on the presentation, what do you think this leader values? What is important to this leader? What values did this leader promote in his or her presentation?

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(continued)

Questions

1. What is your overall assessment of this leader's ethics?
2. What specific examples in the leader's presentation were particularly revealing of the leader's ethics?
3. Which factors of ethical leadership (character, actions, goals, honesty, power, and values) were most apparent in the leader's presentation? Discuss.
4. On a scale from 1 to 10, how would you describe this speaker's ethical leadership? Defend your answer.