

## 2.3 OBSERVATIONAL EXERCISE

### Leadership Traits

#### Purpose

1. To gain an understanding of the role of traits in the leadership process
2. To examine the traits of selected historical and everyday leaders

#### Directions

1. Based on the descriptions of the historical leaders provided in the chapter, identify the three major leadership traits for each of the leaders listed below.
2. Select and briefly describe two leaders in your own life (e.g., work supervisor, teacher, coach, music director, business owner, community leader). Identify the three major leadership traits of each of these leaders.

#### Historical leaders    The leader's three major traits

George Washington    1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Winston Churchill    1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Mother Teresa    1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Bill Gates    1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Oprah Winfrey    1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

## 2.3 OBSERVATIONAL EXERCISE

(continued)

### Everyday leaders

Leader #1 \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Traits                    1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Leader #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Traits                    1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

### Questions

1. Based on the leaders you observed, which leadership traits appear to be most important?
2. What differences, if any, did you observe between the historical and everyday leaders' traits?
3. Based on your observations, what one trait would you identify as the definitive leadership trait?
4. Overall, what traits do you think should be used in selecting our society's leaders?