

Posting to Discussion Board

I understand that a couple of students in this cohort have never taken an online class. Let me provide some insight into success in this mode of course delivery. To begin, it will require the same amount of reading and research as the campus class would, plus an extra 4 hours of online work each week, which would be comparable to the time you would spend in the classroom. Therefore, you need to plan now to set aside 4 hours a week to engage in each online class you take. If you do not discipline yourself to do this, you will struggle. By the way, instructors also have to set aside this much time to teach the class (read and respond to Discussion Board posts, assignments, exams, etc.).

Discussion Board posts should be made directly to the Discussion Board and not submitted as an attachment. You can write it first as a Word document and save it in a file on your computer, but you must cut and paste it to the Discussion Board and do not submit as an attachment. (The only exception will be in week 7 where you will be asked to submit a PowerPoint presentation as an attachment.)

Discussion Board

In my classes (Dr. Hardgrove), the student should think of each Discussion Board post as a mini research paper. Every post and reply should be supported with at least one properly cited APA source. I grade progressively more strictly as the weeks progress because if you read my replies and feedback you should be getting progressively better with APA formatting. See below for an example of an A+ Discussion Board post.

Example of a Good Discussion Board Post

Question/Topic

Please explain how Jesus does or does not exemplify the level 5 leader as defined by Collins (2001).

Please note that in the Discussion Board single space is appropriate, but in the research paper the entire APA paper is double spaced only. Also, note that sacred texts are not included in the References. Finally, cite the version of the Bible you are using the first time you cite a Scripture reference, and if you change versions in your response note the change from one version to the other.

Student Post

Collins (2001) gives the following definition of a level 5 leader: “Builds enduring greatness through a paradoxical blend of personal humility and professional will” (p. 20). Jesus certainly seems to epitomize both ends of this paradox. He was the picture of humility (John 13, NKJV) as He submitted to the will of the Father in all things (Luke 22:42; John 6:38), yet He was also resolute and committed to the role He came to earth to fulfill (Philippians 2:6-8). Jesus was able to take the role of a servant at one moment, washing the feet of the disciples (John 13), and yet He was also bold and committed to breaking the barriers imposed by religious elitists as He reached out to the marginalized of society (Matthew 23:3-5).

Collins (2001) points out that the level 5 leader has an “unwavering resolve . . . to do what must be done” (p. 30). Certainly Jesus had such a resolve. He knew that His mission would come down to the brutality of the cross (Luke 24:7), but He never wavered. He continued to move toward the goal of becoming the sacrifice for the sins of humanity (1 Corinthians 5:7) even though He knew what it would cost Him (Hebrews 12:2).

One can rightly conclude that Jesus was a level 5 leader and that His example stands out in time and history as the model for servant leadership in every age. Furthermore, the continuing presence of the Christian movement in the twenty-first century, with an estimated 2.18 billion adherents (Global Christianity, 2011, p. 1), is testimony to the power of the paradox of the level 5 leader.

References

- Collins, J. (2001). *Good to great: Why some companies make the leap . . . and others don't*. New York: HarperCollins.
- Global Christianity: A report on the size and distribution of the world's Christian population. (2011, December 19). *Pew Research: Religion & Public Life Project*. Retrieved from <http://www.pewforum.org/2011/12/19/global-christianity-exec/>