

Letters to my Future Self as a Leader

At some point in time (and during the next three weeks) you will be experiencing the thrills and challenges of being a leader. To understand how you respond to the challenges of leadership you will write at least six letters to your future self. These will be posted to specific folders created in MyCourses as follows -

Leadership and Context

The two letters to your future self posted to this folder will be focused on yourself in the Context of the organisation as a whole. When you write these you will have spent at least two days observing the classroom 'as if' it is an organisation (which of course it is). That is you must try to decipher what forces are at work shaping the events you observe - this will involve you in researching and referring to information about leadership as a situationally located task. We will discuss this in class so that you are able to decide for yourself what aspects you will focus on the days you observe the class as a whole

Leadership and Groups

The two letters to your future self to be posted in this folder will focus on yourself in the context of a group. It may be that you choose to observe yourself in the context of your R&D Group for two letters. Alternatively you may do one on yourself in the context of your R&D Group and one in your Operational Group.

When you write these letters you will have already experienced time in the group/s you write about. The focus in these letters is on describing what you are observing, and have come to understand, about such things as Team Roles, Functional responsibilities, relationships among team members, connections with other groups, conflict, cooperation and so on.

We will discuss this in class so that you are able to decide for yourself what aspects you will focus on the days you observe the class as a whole

Leadership and Self awareness

We never fully see ourselves as others see us. Nor do we ever fully see our *self*. We are complex sets (and sub-sets) of emotions, recollections, drives, knowledges, capabilities and skill sets. To understand more about who we are takes a lifetime - and, of course, we are growing and changing that 'self' even as we learn more about it. If you have not yet encountered the Johari Window This may be a good time to check it out - you can do so at <http://kevan.org/johari>

These two memos are opportunities to explore what you know about yourself at present. Since everything about you will change in some way, they are moments in time when you can give undivided attention to who you are now, and pay attention to ways in which you might like to direct the changes ahead. The Belbin Team Roles questionnaire and the Learning Styles questionnaire are both good tools for learning more about your present and future self.

There are also hundreds of free 'profile' style questionnaires available on the Internet. Find some and complete them to see what they say about your present self. Write about things that you like, things you might consider working on.