

Leadership
Styles
Handout
Page 1

Think about which leadership style you are drawn to and how that might work in your community. Consider times when it might be good to use another leadership style(s).

LEADERSHIP
STYLE

WHAT IS IT?

THE
UPSIDE

THE
DOWNSIDE

AUTOCRATIC

Relies heavily on getting others to do what you want them to do, by commanding others to follow their policies without consulting them

The upside of autocratic leadership is the speed at which decisions are made

The downside is that decisions made by one person or a small group of people do not take into account the needs of others, which can hurt the group

Do what I tell you!

LAISSE-FAIRE
(OR FREE-REIN)

Allows people to make their own decisions, putting responsibility on the individual

The upside is the freedom to make your own decisions

The downside is that some people need help and resources to figure out what is best. If everyone is helping themselves, there's usually no thought about the future or building sustainable practices, which can be harmful to individuals and the group

Eh, whatever you think is best...?

HORIZONTAL
OR
TRADITIONAL

Consults with all members of the group and hears what is and is not important to them. The group works together to put policies in place, and they talk regularly about those policies and how they are working, or not

The upside to traditional leadership is that the groups needs are being met

The downside is slow decision and policy making, which can be harmful to individuals when decisions need to be made now

What's best for everyone??

Visualize

Below is a visual of what each Leadership Style might look like.

Leadership Styles

Autocratic



Laissez-Faire



Traditional



What's Your Style?

Think about what Leadership Style you gravitate towards.
Draw or write what image(s) come to mind.