

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Term 4 2017

THE SIX ESSENTIAL QUALITIES OF AN IDEAL SCHOOL CAPTAIN

Pages 4-5



WHO SHOULD CHAIR A STUDENT LEADERSHIP MEETING?

Pages 6-7

INSIDE THIS ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER



Latest From Our
Social Media
Page 2

Book Review
'Why Wait to Be Great?'
By Hayden Wilson
Page 3

The National Young
Leaders Day
Page 8

**KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE
STUDENT LEADERSHIP NEWS ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

WWW.STUDENTLEADERSHIP.NEWS



**FOLLOW STUDENT LEADERSHIP NEWS
FOR GREAT IDEAS AND SUCCESS STORIES:**

WWW.STUDENTLEADERSHIP.NEWS



@studentleadnews



@studentleadershipnews



ONE MINUTE BOOK REVIEW

WHY WAIT TO BE GREAT?

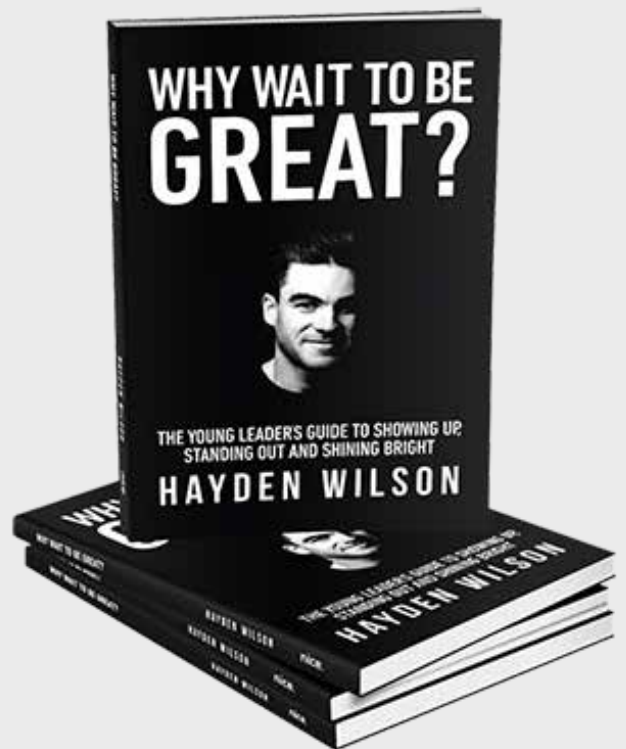
BY HAYDEN WILSON

PUBLISHED BY
Be Nice Publishing.

WRITTEN FOR
Teenagers.

Available as soft cover or digital.

Author Hayden Wilson describes this book on the cover as “The young leader’s guide to showing up, standing out, and shining bright”. From the outset, Wilson encourages his young readers to take responsibility for their own journey, and to start forming the kind of habits that lead towards success. The book is packed with lots of practical suggestions and ideas, almost as if the reader is sitting in a coffee shop being mentored by Wilson himself. Throughout the book Wilson shares much of his own journey, and the tools he uses on a daily basis in his own life. The book is not written as a school based resource, so any teenager can read this book regardless of whether they have any official school leadership position. This would be an ideal book for a teenager who has lots of potential, but perhaps doesn’t see themselves as a leader and needs some extra encouragement to put their ability to good use.



THE 6 ESSENTIAL QUALITIES OF AN IDEAL SCHOOL CAPTAIN

These six essential qualities will be useful for your school to consider in a variety of different contexts. If the student body is soon to cast a vote, then discussing these qualities with every student may give greater substance to your voting process than ever before and be a great learning opportunity for all students.

If staff are soon to choose a school captain, then thinking through these six qualities might cause the decision makers to consider a worthy student that they had not otherwise pictured as a school captain.

If the election for next year's school captain is still some time away, then encouraging interested students to focus on demonstrating these qualities now will do wonders in preventing the future vote from being treated as a popularity contest.

As you read the list please be aware that there could definitely be a much longer list of desirable qualities that all leaders should strive to display. This list is designed mainly to provide a more concise starting point.

1. DISPLAY THE VALUES OF THE SCHOOL

The values, motto and standards of the school should be clearly evident in a school captain. It is one thing for these things to be known and recited, but it is critical for them to be clearly visible. This should not be as a result of compliance but because of a genuine belief that the values of the school are worth living out and passing on to others.

2. ENJOYS SERVING OTHERS

An ideal school captain will be someone who takes great delight in helping others succeed. They should appear willing and delighted when they see an opportunity to serve others and not have to be rewarded or have their arm twisted.



3. SELF CONFIDENCE

An ideal school captain does not have to be the most eloquent public speaker. The ideal captain may even have a quieter personality. However, it is essential that a school captain knows their own abilities and is not afraid to bring them to bear in their role.

4. PROACTIVE

A school captain needs to be proactive, meaning that they have their own ideas and solutions that they wish to share and implement. Being polite and responsive to teacher's requests is important but it is not enough. A school captain should be able to sense needs from within those they lead (the students) and not always require such things to be pointed out by teachers.

5. FAVOURABLE AMONG STAFF AND STUDENTS

A school captain does not need to be everybody's best friend, but it is important that they are respected. Fellow students should admire them for their personality, their character and perhaps even the things they have contributed to the school in the past.

6. INVOLVED IN A VARIETY OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

The student who is involved in the most extra curricular activities should not necessarily be the school captain. However, the reason a varied participation in activities is an essential quality is that these settings expose the school captain to even more students. When the captain spends time with these different groups there is an increased opportunity for them to have a positive influence.



"ENCOURAGING INTERESTED STUDENTS TO FOCUS ON DEMONSTRATING THESE QUALITIES NOW WILL DO WONDERS IN PREVENTING THE FUTURE VOTE FROM BEING TREATED AS A POPULARITY CONTEST".

WHO SHOULD CHAIR A STUDENT LEADERSHIP MEETING?

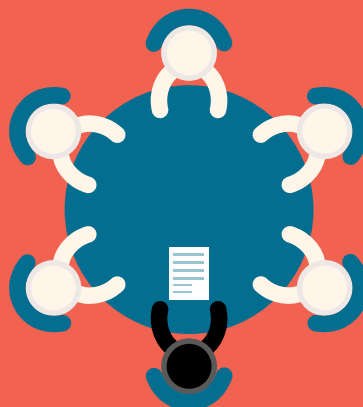
We all know that a pilot flies the plane and a captain steers the ship, but who should be the Chairperson of a student leader's meeting? When it comes to chairing a student leadership meeting the role is often approached differently. At some schools the teacher who supervises the student leaders prefers to chair the meeting. Another common option is for the school captains to take on this role whilst in other schools the role of chairperson is rotated through all of the student leaders over the course of the year. Sometimes it even feels like there is no chairperson!

When a school makes a decision for any one of the above processes there is normally good reason for it. Naturally a teacher will have more experience, a school captain is the leader of the team, or rotating the role allows for all students to have a turn at developing this valuable skill. All of these are valid reasons, but which one is best?

Like with many aspects of leadership, the best decision as to who should chair a meeting will vary depending on the school. Having observed many student leadership groups around Australia we have developed a list of considerations for you to reflect on when making the decision as to who will chair the student leader's meetings at your school.

1. If a teacher chairs the meetings, be deliberate to ensure that students don't leave all of the discussion and the follow-up tasks to the teacher.
2. If a student chairs the meetings it works best for them to have a quick discussion with the teacher before and after the meeting.
3. If a student chairs the meetings it is helpful for the teacher to be present and perhaps even contribute as part of the team.
4. If you are keen to rotate the role it is best to allow a student to chair all meetings in a month or a term to give them a more substantial experience and provide consistency to the team (even if this means few students have the opportunity).
5. A consistent format and the use of agenda templates and minute taking will help a student leader run a productive meeting.
6. It is wise for a teacher to chair the first one or two meetings in order to demonstrate the chairperson's role to the group.

To summarise, it is well and truly possible for a student leader to chair a meeting, but if you allow them to sink or swim they will usually sink! The role of the teacher is to help the student chairperson swim but providing the example, a solid structure, and consistent support and feedback.





GRIPLEADERSHIP

A PRACTICAL AND INTERACTIVE TRAINING DAY HELD IN OVER 100
TOWNS AND CITIES AROUND AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

GRIP STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

NEW TOPICS EVERY YEAR, FOCUSED ON EQUIPPING STUDENT
LEADERS WITH SKILLS AND IDEAS THEY CAN PUT INTO
PRACTICE IN THEIR OWN SCHOOL.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
gripleadership.com

THE NATIONAL YOUNG LEADERS DAY

WHERE STUDENTS ARE INSPIRED TO LEAD



This unique event exposes students to a range of influential leaders who would often be difficult for schools and students to access on their own. The high-profile speakers include leaders from business, sport, politics, community service, media, science and the arts.



halogen.org.au