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LDR 101

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Professor Stamant

Final Leadership Reflection

This whole summer all I wanted to do was move into college. I thought it was going to be the best time of my life. This semester was not just fun, but it was also a great learning experience. Leadership Prologue has helped me develop my writing, public speaking, digital literacy, and teamwork skills. I learned how to manage my time, to take risks, to be responsible, and how to work with different types of people. These skills and qualities helped me develop leadership.

In this course there were quite a few writing assignments that had prompts about leadership. At first, I wasn't sure how to write an essay about leadership. I felt like I did not have the credibility to write about such a strong concept that I did not identify with that much. Coming to Agnes Scott, everybody has to develop leadership skills. Being a leader is a Scottie essential. At Agnes Scott, I had multiple opportunities to be a leader. For example, I took a risk and had the courage to run for First Year Class President. By taking this risk and with the support of others, I won, and I had the opportunity to become a leader. I do not know how much of an influence I have made in this position, but I do try to help out other first years in any way possible. Having this opportunity was very valuable, because it allowed me to write about the leadership writing assignments. For instance, as a member of the freshman student council, I had a responsibility to organize our classes Black Cat Week activities. It was a huge task and I had to learn how to work with different types of people in a team setting. There were many times when the team would not

agree on a certain idea or choice, but we all had to learn how to put our differences aside for Black Cat to be successful. Writing about leadership experiences like Black Cat where I had to be responsible and work with a team helped me analyze and understand how I developed leadership skills.

The debates that we recently did in this course have also helped me build public speaking skills. Leaders have to be able to effectively communicate with others and with their audience. Public speaking is an essential skill for leadership. The debates really put me outside of my comfort zone. I had to think on the spot and try to effectively communicate my argument in a short period of time. It was really difficult at first, but it soon became fun. I really enjoyed working with my group members and I believe that we did a great job. There were definitely times where I was scared of saying the wrong thing in front of a big audience. After a few minutes, I was able to successfully conquer that fear and speak my points confidently.

A key part of this course was studying the effects of social media and the news. Prominent leaders use technology like social media and the news to make them influential. In this day and age, leaders use appeals like ethos, logos, and pathos in combination with technology to effectively communicate their messages to broad audiences. Technology was a very important part of our class discussions. In class, we built our technological skills by visiting the Center of Digital and Visual Learning to make our own digital portfolios. Technology is a major part of the world today. Everything is transitioning to online and that makes having a digital portfolio very important. Before taking this course, I did not know how to make a digital portfolio. Now I have one that I can share with employers and other students. This gives me an advantage to become better and more efficient in digital technology.

Through this course, I have been offered various chances to explore leadership and to learn about the different qualities it takes to be a good leader. This course promoted my development of critical thinking, public speaking, writing, digital literacy, and teamwork skills. Participating in debates, learning digital skills, and critically thinking have contributed to my understanding of leadership and my ability to lead in many different ways. I know I will be able to use this knowledge for the rest of my time at Agnes Scott College and even after I graduate.