



ACTIVITY: 'IF I WERE IN CHARGE'

TIME: 5–15 minutes
SIZE: Individuals
SPACE: Room to sit and write
RESOURCES: Activity Sheet (p.74 or SenseAbility CD)

The aim is for students to consider the qualities and skills that characterise a good group leader.

The result should be an appreciation of the skills that group members – particularly leaders – need to exercise in order for groups to function effectively and rewardingly.

1. Guide a discussion about groups and how many of them have leaders. Perhaps make a brief list of examples of particular leaders and what roles they play in their groups (e.g. political parties, families, sports teams, charity organisations, businesses, spiritual groups) Discuss how members of these groups express either support of or disappointment in their leader's skills.
2. Distribute the Activity Sheets, one per participant.
3. Ask participants to consider a group they might already be a member of, or might like to be a member of. Now ask them to fill out their Activity Sheets, which state:

If I were leader of

I would

because

4. Have students who feel comfortable doing so share their statements with the class.



DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS

- What are some qualities that typify a good leader? (Consider listing on the whiteboard.)
- What are some qualities (or failings) that typify a poor leader?
- Are leadership skills often possessed by more than one member of a group? Are these skills innate, or can they be learned?
- How important to leaders is the support of fellow group members? Why?
- What group/s would you like to lead? Why?
- When might it be better **not** to be the leader of a group? Can you think of some examples?
- Make a list of your own leadership skills – are there some you have strongly, and some you might consider building?