

Kruttika Gopal

Dr. Manuel

SPA Leadership Capstone

29 April 2022

Personal Statement of Leadership

After three years in the SPA Leadership Program, I would say that my definition of leadership is the ability to influence and guide other individuals, whether they are on their own, on teams, or parts of large bodies. It is more than just telling people what to do—it is influencing them with reason, understanding, passion, and common goals.

Some notable leadership qualities that have stuck with me over the past three years are empathy, integrity, confidence, positivity, and self-awareness. These are key to being a successful leader who keeps followers engaged in a respectful way to get goals accomplished.

Above all, I think the most important thing about leadership is motivation. In my studies of leadership theory within the program, as well as my different leadership experiences throughout college, I have realized that motivation comes in many different forms but always ends up being what makes the strongest leader. Motivation does not always need to be a positive one, either—determination can be fueled by wanting to fix something that is wrong, too. In my particular work with the environmental movement, it can be difficult to have motivation fueled by positivity. Yet still, the strongest leaders I have worked with displayed a motivation fueled by hope for a better future and displeasure with current industrial and environmental practices. This motivates me to *be* a motivated leader in the future, and I look forward to bringing a fresh determination to everything I do.