

Reflecting on Leadership

Option 1: Essay

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz was the Commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet during World War II, leading American naval forces to victory against Japan through key battles like Midway and the island-hopping campaign. The following leadership qualities made him an exceptional commander and a model for leadership and public service in any field:

1. **Strategic Vision** – He had a deep understanding of naval warfare and long-term strategy, enabling bold and calculated decisions.
2. **Decisiveness** – He made critical choices under pressure, often with limited information, such as during the Battle of Midway.
3. **Calm Under Pressure** – His composure during crises instilled confidence in his officers and sailors.
4. **Adaptability** – He embraced new tactics and technologies, including aircraft carrier warfare, to gain a strategic advantage.
5. **Delegation and Trust** – He empowered his subordinates, allowing for greater flexibility and effectiveness in battle.
6. **Humility and Approachability** – His humble and approachable nature fostered loyalty and high morale among his men.
7. **Ethical Leadership** – He led with integrity, treating allies and subordinates with respect, strengthening coalitions.
8. **Resilience and Patience** – He remained committed to a steady, strategic approach in the long campaign to defeat Japan.
9. **Effective Communication** – He clearly articulated strategies and orders, ensuring coordination among vast forces.
10. **Inspiration and Morale Building** – He recognized sacrifices and achievements, keeping his forces motivated.
11. **Resourcefulness** – He maximized limited resources, used intelligence effectively, and adapted to battlefield conditions.
12. **Determination** – He remained resolute in the face of adversity, executing a vision that led to ultimate victory.

In a 500–750 word essay, describe how you have demonstrated at least three of Admiral Nimitz's leadership traits in your own life. Share specific examples of how you have led others, faced challenges, and made a difference in your school, community, or beyond. Additionally, reflect on how these leadership qualities will guide you in your future education and career, helping you achieve your goals and make a lasting impact.

Option 2: SEL Reflection or Exit Ticket

Choose one of the following prompts to respond to in 1–2 paragraphs:

- Which of Admiral Nimitz’s leadership traits do you see most in yourself? Share a time when you used this trait to solve a problem or support someone.
- Which leadership trait do you most want to develop? What is one step you can take to grow in that area?
- Why is ethical leadership important in today’s world? How can students your age show leadership in everyday life?

Use this space to reflect:
