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Pitzer I would describe myself as an angst-ridden person who would always like to keep engaged in some activity and does not like to be idle. I have been interested in learning various literatures ever since I was of a very young age. I took up a very diverse curriculum such as Ethnic literature, Spanish AP, sculpture and cooking in high school. It has helped me in shaping myself as a competent person. My family background is very diverse. My roots are in Mexico and that of my father are in Poland and Austria. My mother is from the US and her parents are from Romania and Bolivia. I was raised to speak fluent Spanish and understand all kinds of cultures. This has helped me in understanding diverse cultures and I was naturally inclined to learn about cultures from all over the world.

I was always inclined towards social responsibility. I founded a Community service program called AYUDA which focuses on helping elementary children with Latino background with their school work and social integration. I implemented this program in an inner city school in Los Angeles.

I am a member of the Latin club, the president of the Celebremos program and the Jewish club. Being a part of these clubs has not only increased my knowledge but enabled to me to become a responsible person with leadership and communication skills.

I am an independent student that has selected my courses in order to expand my knowledge and interest in as many disciplines as possible.

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The term leadership invokes different thoughts to different people, yet there seem to be images common to everyone. George Washington leading the Continental Army, Amelia Earhart breaking new ground for her gender and within the aviation community, and Winston Churchill guiding Britain through

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World War II, are notable examples of leadership with which we are familiar. However, if asked about a leader who thoroughly inspired me and lead me to change my thought and approach towards life, I would emphatically state Gandhi.

Some of the greatest known leaders in history made their biggest marks on humanity by steady stewardship of their people and responsibilities.

Mahatma Gandhi had great impact on the world because of their perseverance and steadfast convictions. At a time when a colonial rule was stringent upon India, Gandhi, was perseverant in trying to make India a free country. What makes Gandhi very revered to me is his approach. Although his intention was to free a country, he used the approach of non-violence. This approach was not only taken advantage of by the colonials, but also reprimanded by his fellow Indians who believed that the only way to achieve freedom was by fighting back.

Regardless of anything, Gandhi remained steadfast with his convictions. When I learnt about him, I was very inspired. It taught me an important concept of leadership: patience. To draw an analogy, as a leader; one faces several challenges from peers, juniors and also competitors. The behavior of the leader is put to test at such situations. One can lose his cool and take drastic steps and consequently cause dire problems. However the ability to remain patient leads to favorable results.

Gandhi's leadership style taught me that one is what he is because of himself. I learnt to take up my responsibilities and keep up my beliefs and convictions in the process. During the course of an action, several people may abuse, reprimand or laugh at my way of doing certain things; but I am going to remain steady.

Finally, another major change I had in my life by reading about Gandhi, was respecting people. Gandhi truly loved everyone around him regardless of people's position in the society, their nature of work or even regardless of whether they liked him. During Gandhi's time India had several social evils such as caste system and bias towards male gender, but Gandhi helped shed it. He respected each and every person he knew. Because his style of leadership was not liked by a few extremists, they opposed him and always abused him. But Gandhi did not give back. His principle was " An eye for an eye leaves the whole world blind". This is so true even in today's globalised world. One can not have his biases towards certain people. If everyone in the company starts pulling the other's leg, there will be no positive works.

I have been deeply moved and at the same time inspired by Gandhi, a man of firm beliefs and convictions and the man who teaches us all that a leader's true qualities are determined only by his behavior during times of adversity.