

Leadership Challenges

Being a leader isn't just about having a title — it's about how you handle real-life situations with confidence, respect, and a willingness to grow. The challenges on this handout are here to help you build and strengthen important leadership skills through situations you might face on campus, in clubs, in class, or at work. They're designed to get you thinking, communicating, and working better with others — so you can lead in a way that feels real and authentic.

The Silent Contributor

Challenge: One team member consistently shows up but rarely participates in discussions or decisions.

Goal: Learn how to engage quieter team members and foster inclusive participation.

Deadline Dilemma

Challenge: Your group project is falling behind schedule, and not everyone is contributing equally.

Goal: Practice setting expectations, redistributing tasks, and holding peers accountable.

The Conflict Mediator

Challenge: Two team members are in conflict over differing work styles.

Goal: Develop conflict resolution and active listening skills to mediate a solution.

Leading When You're Not in Charge

Challenge: You're not the official leader, but the group lacks direction.

Goal: Practice informal leadership, influence without authority, and initiative-taking.

Crisis Communication

Challenge: A major event your group planned suddenly faces a cancellation or controversy.

Goal: Build crisis management, transparency, and communication skills under pressure.

Ethical Dilemma

Challenge: A teammate suggests bending the rules to get a better grade or result.

Goal: Strengthen ethical decision-making and values-based leadership.

Diversity and Inclusion Challenge

Challenge: A team decision unintentionally excludes a member's perspective or cultural background.

Goal: Learn how to lead with cultural awareness and ensure all voices are valued.

Vision Alignment

Challenge: Your team has great ideas but lacks a shared goal or direction.

Goal: Practice setting a collective vision and aligning team efforts toward it.

Pitt **Forged.** Bradford **Inspired.**