

Leadership Communication – Revised Final Assignment 2026

Final Project: Authentic Leadership Self-Reflection

Paper Due: 11:59pm three weeks after your last class; submit on bcourses

Authentic leaders use self-reflection regularly to improve their leadership skills. Use this final assignment as an opportunity to seriously reflect upon your own strengths, weaknesses and opportunities as a leader, and as a starting point to develop your own authentic leadership style. This exercise is based on the principles and techniques outlined in the HBR Article Discovering Your Authentic Leadership – please consult this and the other course readings as you undertake the assignment.

This assignment will be completed in two parts: **three structured self-reflection activities** and a **final written essay**.

1. Structured Self-Reflection:

Go beyond simply listing your observations or experiences; instead, this is an opportunity to think about who you are as a leader; where these traits came from; and what areas you'd like to develop. Some people prefer to reflect "intrapersonally" (within themselves), and others prefer to reflect "interpersonally" (with others). You can choose how you'd like to conduct and submit your self-reflections - either as written journals (intrapersonal) or recorded dialogues with a classmate (interpersonal).

Consider the following categories - you do not need to answer each question, but you should submit a self-reflection for each category.

1. **Looking Back:** Which people and experiences in your life have had the greatest impact on you? What are the moments when you say to yourself, this is the real me? What are your most deeply held values, where did they come from, and have they changed over time? How do your values inform your actions?
2. **In Class:** During class, what did you discover about yourself? What ideas have come up based on feedback you received during the in-class exercises? What did you learn through the experiences of your classmates? What themes are emerging about your leadership?
3. **Looking Ahead:** Brainstorm what steps can you take today, tomorrow, and over the next year to develop your authentic leadership. Do others perceive you the same way you perceive yourself, and how do you know? What is your vision for the kind of leader you'd like to be?

Self-Reflection Submission Requirements

For each category, submit **either** (1) a written journal entry or (2) a transcript of a recorded dialogue with a classmate from your cohort. Each journal entry should be approximately 1 page

(typed or handwritten and scanned). If you choose to reflect in dialogue with a classmate, make sure you evenly share the conversation time (approximately 20 minutes of conversation total, with both of you asking and answering the questions) and submit a transcript. Note: both students can submit the same transcript.

2. Final Written Essay:

After you have completed the structured self-reflection activities and collected any other data that may be useful for your analysis, write a 3-4 page paper that summarizes your findings about your authentic leadership development, and charts a clear path for yourself to develop your authentic leadership over the next 12 months. This final essay synthesizes your self-reflections across three sources:

1. your own in-class experience in the main classroom and in your small group;
2. ideas from the readings, class concepts, and frameworks; and
3. your observations of your daily professional and personal communication and additional research and reflections you conducted outside of class.

Please do more than simply present the data you gathered or regurgitate the journal entries you wrote. The best papers will *also* demonstrate high levels of creativity, storytelling, and self-awareness.

Final Written Essay Submission Requirements

Your essay should be 3-4 double-spaced typewritten pages. You will write your paper within bCourses using the Rumi tool. VERY IMPORTANT: You must complete all the writing within Rumi - do NOT write in Google Docs / Word and copy/paste your assignment. You will submit your journal entries in a separate assignment.

In this course, we prioritize active engagement, authentic leadership, and self-reflection. To achieve these objectives, we ask that you refrain from using any AI tools or automated services during class sessions and assignments. This includes, but is not limited to, AI-generated content, automated writing assistance, and machine learning-based solutions such as ChatGPT.