

The biggest difference between leaders and managers are quite clear. In my retail experience a manager is someone who fulfills the objective and goal of the district leader. The manager is basically another employee but given a little more power over the other workers and has the power to hire and fire people in the system based on the needs of the parent company. Failure do so could either result in termination or demotion to a lower ranking or starting position. This was my initial thought before doing the reading, now here is my response after the reading:

Leading is way more complicated than managing could ever be. Managing is carrying out the idea, while leading is living it. My favorite quote from the readings this week is:

“Leading your program often means, explaining, defending, and advocating for your program” (Dearstyne, 2008, p. 167).

That’s an incredibly significant difference. It reminds me of a very entertaining picture that real makes me laugh a little inside. I often think of this picture every time I am at work and it shows that a boss merely gives out the orders of the business model, whereas the leader is the model. The leader also needs to consider the audience that uses the services they provide. Our reading endorses this model as it states:

“The use of different language when addressing different audiences, for instance, is desirable, as it is the slight movement of focus from one key program activity to another, again depending on the audience” (Dearstyne, 2008, p. 167).

What continues in that passage is that it is also the responsibility of translating the necessity of a product to the audience that is unfamiliar with it. Instead of making a general statement that nobody would understand outside of the company, we need to explain the significance of the product that would invite individuals outside of the program to be enticed to it.

Something else my Oma (grandma in German) once told was “the difference between superiority and supremacy”. Superior individuals listen and acknowledge the other individuals in the room where the supremacist only acknowledges himself. A successful leader knows his environment and is responsible for the individuals residing in it. Whether it’s the workplace, a community, or your own household, the successful leader works with his team to push his vision rather than sitting around waiting for it to happen.

References

Bad boss vs good leader [Web Image]. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://b78c5353a874f3d0a1abb4ba-radiantforestllc.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/boss-vs-leader-800x800.png>

Dearstyne, B. W. (2008). *Leading and managing archives and records programmes: Strategies for success*. New York: Neal-Schuman.

