

Unit One:

Empowering New Leaders

YGPS (Your Global Positioning System), Workshop Series 2010

Unit 1: Empowering new leaders

# Introduction

Welcome to the YGPS programme! In this module you will develop the skills that will not only empower you to become a leader but also maximise your chances of success in your studies, the workplace, and your life. YGPS stands for Your Global Positioning System. The aim of this module is to help you to develop the skills to position yourself by understanding who you are and what you can contribute to your family, community, society and the world in the 21st century.

The module will take you on a journey of self-discovery and empowerment by making use of reading, activities, multi-media resources (websites and video clips) and assessments.

Learn more about the Global Positioning System (GPS) at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gps

## Learning outcomes

By the end of this unit you will be able to:

* Explain why you have the opportunity to be a different kind of leader
* Reflect on who you are

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| YGPS_resource icon.jpg | Start up activity 1.1:  Why you are you a leader |

Let’s get straight into it. Open up the resource file (CD) at the file entitled: Empowering new leaders. There you will find a video clip entitled: Patrick Awuah. Who is Patrick Awuah?

Patrick Awuah left Ghana as a teenager to attend Swarthmore College in the United States, then stayed on to build a career at Microsoft in Seattle. In returning to his home country, he has made a commitment to educating young people in critical thinking and ethical service, values he believes are crucial for the nation-building that lies ahead.

Founded in 2002, his Ashesi University is already charting a new course in African education, with its high-tech facilities, innovative academic program and emphasis on leadership. It seems more than fitting that ashesi means "beginning" in Akan, one of Ghana's native languages.

(“Patrick Awuah | Profile on TED.com,” 2007).

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| YGPS_group activity icon.jpg | Group Activity 1.2:  Why are you leaders? |

Form groups of 3-5 and discuss and answer the following questions:

Who are leaders according to Patrick?

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What skills does Patrick teach young leaders at Ashesi University?

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Why do I say that you can be a new leader?

*(Tip: Look at the module outline for YGPS and see what you going to learn in this module)*

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**Quotes on leadership to consider:**

*Leadership can be thought of as a capacity to define oneself to others in a   
way that clarifies and expands a vision of the future.*

*- Edwin H. Friedman*

Good leaders must first become good servants.

- Robert Greenleaf

If you fail to honor your people,  
They will fail to honor you;  
It is said of a good leader that  
When the work is done, the aim fulfilled,  
 The people will say, "We did this ourselves.

- Lao Tzu, , 604-531 B. C.,

# Starting the journey

We hope that you have realised from the video that you have the opportunity to become a leader because you are furthering your education after secondary school. Leaders are not only political you can be a leader by being a good teacher, electrician, accountant, farmer, nurse, manager, etc. You might ask but where do I start? Read the following quote:

“A man should first direct himself in the way he should go.   
Only then should he instruct others.”

*- Buddha (563-483 B.C.)*

Yes, the journey starts with knowing yourself. In this section you are going to complete several activities to help you reflect on:

* What you have achieved so far
* What defines you (personality traits)
* What is important to you (values)
* What your strengths and weaknesses are.

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| YGPS_activity icon.jpg | Learning Activity 1.3:  Draw your lifeline |

A lifeline is a horizontal line on which you put dates and the most important events that occurred throughout your life up until now. You can start at your birth and include anything positive or negative that had a big influence on you as a person (M. Moratto, 2009). **Use the next page so you have enough space and the come back to the self-reflection below.**

### Self - Reflection

Now that you have completed your lifeline look over it and reflect on how far you have come and what you have achieved to get to this point. You can use the space below to write down any thoughts you have:

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| **My Lifeline** |

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| YGPS_activity icon.jpg | Learning Activity 1.4:  Identifying my personality traits |

Review the list below honestly and encircle 5-10 traits that define or characterise you. After every trait there is a short description or meaning, please do not hesitate to consult your dictionary if you feel uncertain of the meanings. If you are close to a computer you can use the Cambridge Online Dictionary at <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/>. Using a dictionary is a good way of improving your language skills.

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| **Accepting**  (you deal with people in a kind and friendly way) | **Efficient**  (able to do things well and properly) | **Logical**  (I can reason correctly) | **Productive**  (I work hard) |
| **Adventurous**  (you like to do exciting and risky things) | **Energetic**  (I am lively) | **Loyal**  (I am faithful and true) | **Punctual**  (I have good time management and meet due dates) |
| **Ambitious**  (you have a strong desire to succeed) | **Enthusiastic**  (strong feelings of interest) | **Open-minded**  (I can consider many angles and options) | **Quiet**  (calm and private) |
| **Assertive**  (you demand recognition for a viewpoint) | **Focused**  (I can pay attention to detail) | **Optimistic**  (I look for the good in everything and hope for the best) | **Rational**  (I can make good decisions) |
| **Careful**  (you take care when you do something) | **Friendly**  (kind and likeable) | **Organized**  (My things are in order) | **Realistic**  (I look at things as they really are and reject things that are impractical) |
| **Confident**  (believe that you can do something well) | **Gentle**  (mild and kind) | **Outgoing**  (I am friendly) | **Self-controlled**  (I have control over my feelings and behaviour) |
| **Conscientious**  (careful not to do something wrong or badly) | **Genuine**  (I do not pretend) | **Patient**  (I am tolerant and understanding of others) | **Selfless**  (I have little care for my own needs and take care of others) |
| **Considerate**  (you show thought for things and people) | **Happy**  (joyful) | **Persistent**  (I continue in spite of difficulties) | **Independent**  (you do not need much support) |
| **Cooperative**  (you can work with others towards the same goal) | **Hard-working**  (able and willing to work hard) | **Reliable**  (I can be depended on) | **Sincere**  (I do not pretend, I am honest) |
| **Creative**  (full of new ideas) | **Helpful**  (able to do something) | **Resourceful**  (I am clever at finding ways of doing things) | **Disciplined**  (you obey rules) |
| **Decisive**  (you can find and implement answers) | **Honest**  (correct and fair) | **Responsive**  (I reply quickly and readily) | **Thorough**  (I take great care not to miss something) |
| **Dependable**  (people can rely on you) | **Humorous**  (you have a sense of fun) | **Devoted**  (give a lot of time and attention to your work) | **Imaginative**  (have a creative side) |

*Taken and adapted from* [*www.professional-resume-example.com*](http://www.professional-resume-example.com)

List your 5-10 personality traits in the table below.

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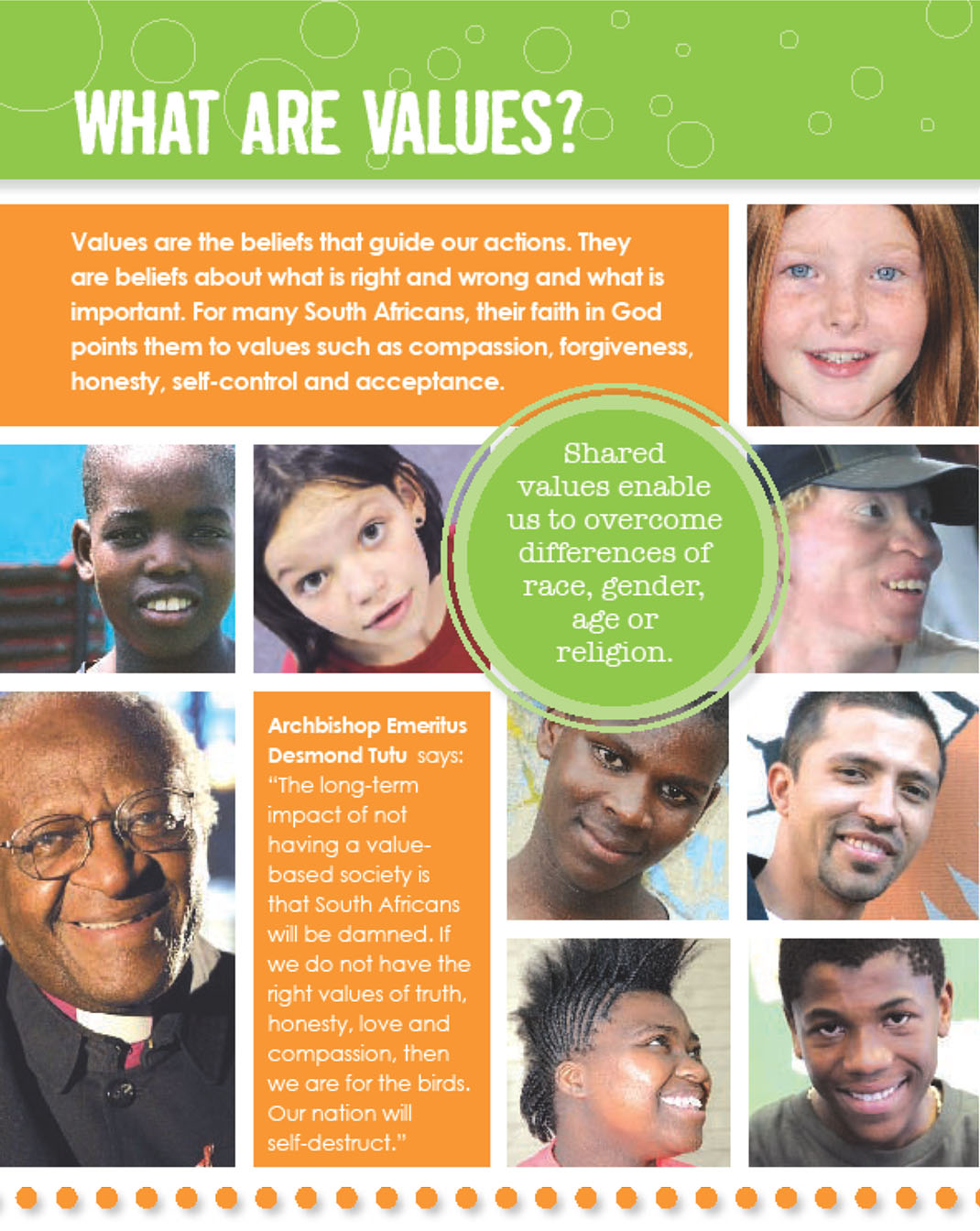
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| YGPS_activity icon.jpg | Learning Activity 1.5 |

This learning activity is intended to help you clarify what is important to you i.e. what you value as a person. It is not always easy to know what you really value. It is very important to be honest with yourself and perceptive of how your values define your thoughts, actions and words.

Think about the following questions:

* What are you striving for?
* Where do you spend most of your time? (refer to time management)
* On what do you spend the most money?
* What is important to you?

In thinking about these types of questions, you are reflecting on your values. What are values?



***Source:*** *Heartlines for Youth (2009), pg 4.*

The following value table was taken and adapted from the book *Emotional Intelligence* by Le Roux and De Klerk.

Use the table and:

1. Pick the values that are important to you and then,
2. Rate the values from **most to least important** from your perspective **(1 = most important).**

**Note:** add any extra values not listed in the table in the open lines at the end.

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| **Values** | **Pick** | **Rate** |
| Religion/Wisdom (great knowledge and good judgement) |  |  |
| Family (a unit of parents and children) |  |  |
| Peacefulness (calm) |  |  |
| Communication (give and receive information) |  |  |
| Tolerance  (to allow or not to mind things/ideas/people etc different from yourself) |  |  |
| Friendship  (interaction with people you know and like and who know and like you in return) |  |  |
| Balance (containing the right amount of everything) |  |  |
| Money |  |  |
| Honesty (telling the truth) |  |  |
| Acceptance/popularity  (people agree with you and are friendly towards you) |  |  |
| Independence (not relying or needing support) |  |  |
| Education (process of teaching or learning) |  |  |
| Happiness/Humour (joyful) |  |  |
| Empathy (putting yourself in someone else’s shoes) |  |  |
| Health |  |  |
| Kindness |  |  |
| Commitment (promise to attend or pay something to the end) |  |  |
| Responsibility |  |  |
| Success (achieving a result one planned or hoped for) |  |  |
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| YGPS_activity icon.jpg | Learning Activity 1.6:  Strengths and Weaknesses |

Part of knowing yourself is knowing what your strengths and weaknesses are. By strength we mean a good characteristic or feature and weakness is something you are not good at and might want to improve .

Use the table below to summarise your strengths and weaknesses for yourself.

*Summary of my strengths and weaknesses*

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| Strengths | Weaknesses |
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# Bringing this together

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| YGPS_assessment icon.jpg | Assessment Activity 1.7:  Your profile |

Use the template on the next page to create a 1 page summary or profile of who you are at this moment based on your answers in learning activities 2.1-2.4. This table should be included in your portfolio.

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| **My profile**  **My lifeline**  (The important highlights from activity 1.3) | |
| **My personality trait (1.4)** | **My values (1.5)** |
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| **My strengths (1.6)** | **My weaknesses (1.6)** |
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# Tracking my progress

You have reached the end of this section. Check whether you have achieved the learning outcomes for this section.

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| **Learning outcomes** | **✓ I feel confident** | **✓ I still need practice** |
| I understand that I have the opportunity to become a different type of leader |  |  |
| I can reflect on who I am |  |  |

What did you like best about this section?

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What did you find most difficult in this section?

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What do you need to improve on? How will you do this?

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# References

Cambridge Dictionaries Online - Cambridge University Press. (2009). . Retrieved March 1, 2009, from http://dictionary.cambridge.org/define.asp?key=78769&dict=CALD.

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Watson, P (2009). *Heartlines for Youth. Putting Values into Action. A Step-by-Step Guide.* Johannesburg: Heartlines