Interview With SG

How do you define a successful leader?

Successful leaders, at the core, are people who take initiative in their own lives. They have short-term and long-term goals and they are taking tangible steps towards achieving them. People who are able to lead their own path towards success and able to cooperate with others inevitably become great leaders in every sector.

What steps have you taken to reach this position?

The biggest step I took to reach this position was to ask for advice from others who had reached this position before me, and then implementing that advice. That included attending conferences and participating in school initiatives - but what's more than that is getting my own life in order and pursuing ventures outside of school to build valuable skills.

What skills have enabled you to reach the SG position starting from being a delegate?

There are two major skills which enabled me to reach this position. The first is learning to be a good communicator, I was able to obtain this skill by being a part of different teams and learning how to work well with others. More important than this is the skill of perseverance. Having a leadership position of any kind comes with a lot of pressure, therefore its important to be able to stick it through and be able to work well under that pressure. This particular skill doesn't come with practice, rather it comes from learning different techniques to cope with pressure and get work done efficiently.

What’s your view is the purpose of having Conferences like the Qatar Leadership Conference and many other student-led conferences?

I think the QLC and other student-led conferences are a unique and invaluable experience. They teach students a set of skills and give them experience that they can't get at any other place at this age. Nevertheless, I don't think that's the core purpose of the conference. Rather, its purpose is to serve the needs and wants of the students who are participating, and the student leaders have delivered that service to a high standard year after year.

What advice would you give new delegates?

My advice is definitely to take advantage of your time in high school and try as many things as you can. That means to participate in as many conferences as you can, go for every leadership opportunity you find and explore every path. The opportunity to gain such skills and experience at such a young age is an opportunity many people around the world only dream of. Here, it is readily provided so take advantage of it so these few years can serve you for the rest of your life.

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Our precious, one-of-a-kind planet is our only home, yet us humans are destroying it simply by existing. We’re destroying it with our greed and carelessness. Most people are unaware of the harm they’re doing, but that’s not their fault. The way we live our lives is very toxic to the natural environment.

Today, most people think that we should simply be vegan, reduce our use of plastic, drive less, stop smoking, and change many other small everyday parts of our lives for the better. If a huge amount of people unite to make these small changes in their lives, we will be able to reduce the amount of harm we do to the environment. Although small changes lead to big impacts, these changes in our daily routines are still not enough to stop the planet from having irreversible effects.

So, what else should we do to stop the earth from “dying”? It’s pretty straightforward, we have the answers already and all we need to do is to act on them. One of the most simple and obvious answers is planting trees. Trees are like natural machines that let out oxygen in exchange for the carbon dioxide we produce. Time is ticking and if we don’t start acting, even trees won’t be able to reverse the effects we’ve caused. Carbon dioxide emissions have been increasing dramatically over the past several years, and without a clean and balanced atmosphere, our planet will not be as safe as it should be for living organisms. Too much carbon dioxide increases the Earth’s temperature level, which is why this whole issue is called “global warming”. Increased temperatures lead to wildfires, droughts, floods, and many other life threatening natural disasters.

Therefore, if we the people really want to save our planet, we have to spread the word to others. Let’s take Greta Thunberg as an example. She decided to go on a school strike and protested all alone in front of the Swedish parliament. Because of her brave actions, she has inspired many people all over the world to follow in her footsteps. Today, she speaks to world leaders and corporations who have the power to save the planet. Very recently, the biggest international climate strikes/protests were held during September 20 to 27, and millions of people protested demanding action to be taken. The protests took place in 4500 locations in 150 countries, and all thanks to Greta Thunberg’s bravery and determination.

As Greta Thunberg said in one of her speeches, “The real power belongs to the people.” We might not be in charge of big corporations, but we do have a voice. By educating others and doing our part in reducing our carbon footprints, we are going into the right direction. The louder our voices, the clearer the governments can hear us.

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Educate A Child

Abdullah Al Nasr
Qatar Academy Doha

Education is a crucial part of any child’s life. As the saying goes “Give a child a fish, he won’t be hungry for one day, but teach a child how to fish and he’ll never be hungry again.” Sheikha Moza bint Nasser Al Misned is a key figure role for spreading education not only in her home country but all around the world. Her organization “Education Above All” has not only raised awareness for the plight of children in South Asia and Africa, but as well as educating ten million students directly from her organization.

This initiative started to gain attraction in 2012 under the guidance of H.H Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser. Their goal was to insure that 10 million children deprived from education to receive primary education. The amount of children who are deprived of primary education has risen in the past year to about 64 million due to poverty, war and oppression. Educate a child is one of the only middle eastern initiatives to have made any headway into tackling the child education issue. Her highness herself regularly goes to underprivileged schools in order to see for herself the conditions the children live in. She also was the first woman to have a major role in government within the arab world by establishing the iconic Education City.

Unexpectedly the organization has reached its goal within six years of establishing the initiative. This is due to all the successful campaign which generated many donations from people all around the world. Their partnership with many elements of the Qatari government has allowed the Qatari nationals and expatriates to all combine their extra money to help the cause.

Please help the cause by donating to this website!
https://donate.educationaboveall.org/en/home

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Kashmir Crisis

Gulzar Mohammed
Qatar Academy Doha

History has oppressed Kashmir for economic gain, the least we can do is give them freedom. Kashmir, a beautiful land with kind people and an unmatched history that is being destroyed by two nations that claim that they are only aiding the land whereas the two nations are the only people destroying the land due to a treaty made by people who had no business in deciding whose land is whose. Between 1987 and 2008 around 50,000 people have died due to the conflict in Kashmir in which both Pakistani and Indian state actors are to blame for. Within the present day, Indian administered Kashmir is under siege by the Hindu-nationalist BJP party using the withdrawal of Article 370 from the Indian Constitution that removes the special autonomous designation that is given to the status of Kashmir. A curfew around the Indian administered region has been administered since August as well as telecommunications have been, prior to September shut off, yet recently some restrictions have been lifted. Basic medical supplies have been cut off from the area leaving many without the proper care needed to survive. Vigilante mobs have been killing and attacking Muslims and other religious minorities sometimes in cooperation with Indian troops. (India has apologised as officers were told to de-escalate such issues.) This is escalating the likelihood of a conflict between the two nuclear-armed nations with around 1.7 billion people in between the countries that would be at risk if the Kashmir situation is to escalate.

Many Indians have rightly denounced the human rights violations carried out by PM Modi. Pakistani PM, Imran Khan has been extremely vocal about the unrest in Kashmir even though it is believed that Pakistan knowingly funds violent acts to undermine IOK. The vast majority of Kashmiris do not want Pakistani or Indian rule and prefer independence. A Reuters poll shows that around 95% of Kashmiris believe that they need an independent state.

“This is an opinion piece written for THIMUN Qatar. The views and opinions stated within the article are not necessarily the views of THIMUN Qatar, or any affiliated organisations.
Mr. President Style

Mohammed Gulzar
Qatar Academy Doha

Leadership is not only about making decisions and control. Leadership is about leading your people, your constituents towards a brighter future for themselves. There are so many methods and practices to help guide people with you under your own leadership. The way you dress makes a statement, sometimes it's the little things that make a difference, like where you keep a pen on your suit or a pin's position on the shirt. Of course, there isn't only one way presidents, prime ministers, emirs and sultans wear clothing but rest-assured it is always with the highest amount of dignity and honour. Let's look at the president of the United States as an example of what a leader should wear. There is yet to be a female U.S president so we'll be looking at men's clothing. Styles change over time so the suit JFK wore would not suit 2019 nor 1919, so let's look at President Obama, arguably the most stylish out of the 45. The president will almost always be wearing a suit outside as it shows dignity and power. Underneath is either a white or a light blue shirt to contrast the black or navy blue suit which is two-buttoned, first one is always buttoned, never the last. The president also needs a tie, which would usually be a full Windsor and the colour depends on the occasion, blue for everyday, red for a special occasion, green-yellow for casual/leisure (Obama was the first president to be photographed without a tie since WW1.) A flag pin for the U.S is necessary as it shows patriotism. The flag should be bordered by gold with a pole, on the left side of the suit just under the knot of the tie and should never have another flag next to it. Something as simple as getting ready in the morning is much harder knowing your entire country is watching you as you walk out!

Society’s Addiction

Deema Al Ali
Vision International School

Have you ever started working on an assignment then found yourself scrolling through tik toks two minutes later? If yes, then don’t worry, it’s technically not your fault. For the first time in history, humans have started to grow lazier than ever, and the root cause is the fact that we have our eyes glued to our screens for hours everyday. We have a not-so-obvious worldwide problem, and it’s social media addiction.

Many of our parents keep telling us to stop using our phones too much, and they have reason to do so. A study published in the medical journal, JAMA Psychiatry, says “teenagers who spend more than three hours a day on social media are more likely to develop mental health issues like depression, anxiety, aggression, and antisocial behaviour”. Although we all know the consequences of being glued to our phones, we ignore them and keep scrolling through our endless feeds. Many experts argue that it’s not our fault. Social media apps and websites were designed to keep us glued to our devices. Since we have almost no control over our social media intake due to their addictive design, we can at least try to combat it by using self control and different tips and tricks to cut down on screen time.

Many devices offer screen time which limits your use of any specified apps you choose. This setting is offered on most smartphones, and it’s one of the most convenient ways of limiting social media intake. Monitoring your social media usage allows you to realize how addicted you are to your phone by showing you exactly how many hours you spend on each app, and the numbers can be scary! Looking at the statistics helps you understand yourself better so you can recover from your addiction.

To truly limit your social media usage, you have to admit that you’re addicted.

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The Middle East is one of the most politically complex regions on the planet. Alliances, proxies, common enemies, threats, trade partners and trade embargoes are the norm for most Middle Eastern countries and their people. Freedom is still a dream in the minds of children for most in the Middle East as their fathers and mothers have given up on such frivolous endeavours. Some protests happen peacefully, so the illusion of freedom is dangled on the population until the next protest is met with bullets and tear gas. Proxy wars being elongated to serve Western arms interests while their own countrymen die of hunger and war.

Possibly one of the most complicated relationships in politics is the Saudi-Iran paradox. Why are these two regional superpowers fighting and will it reach to the point of conflict? Iran reportedly attacked a Saudi oil facility which Saudi Arabia deemed an act of war so the current situation is very volatile. Many western scholars of politics simply leave it at a religious divide between the mainly Sunni Saudi Arabia and the mainly Shia I.R. Iran. That is simply not true. While religious divide certainly does not help the Saudi-Iran issue it certainly is not an issue for either side. Saudi Arabia’s closest ally is to what many Saudis would deem ‘infidels’ or ‘disbelievers’ yet that does not seem to be a problem for the new Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman (MBS) who is even more anti-Iran than his predecessors. He began an ongoing, yet ineffective blockade on the State Of Qatar due to her positive relationship with Iran. Ironically the Saudi-led blockade only made Qatar closer to Iran as a trusted trade partner and ally to Qatar. Sanctions and insults were sent to the Turkish President Recip Erdogan due to the Turkish relationship with Iran.

Iran has also attempted to use its political power to influence more countries and people to side with Iran just as Saudi Arabia did. Hezbollah, an Iranian-backed terrorist/political group has significant backing within Lebanon. Interventions in Bahrain, a Saudi-satellite state and Yemen occur often either through funding Islamist groups to gain followers in the region or through direct campaigns by diplomats to assimilate to Iranian interests.

Most tensions began after the 1979 Iranian Revolution due to Iran’s complete anti-American stances which did not sit well with Saudi interests. For the first time in 50 years, Saudi rule over the Middle East is questioned and for America, there is a new nation of 40 million people that are screaming ‘Death to America’ over a lot of oil & natural gas fields. Shia-Sunni relations were while not flourishing before the 1970’s were normal. No country wanted to go to war over both ideologies. It is simply not true that Sunni Muslims and Shia Muslims have always lived in war and tension, for many centuries Shias and Sunnis both lived in peace and cooperation even into the 20th century. To blame the tensions on Islam is incorrect as both are power-hungry nations that want the Middle East subservient to their respective nation.

This has led both to allegations of supporting terrorism against each other and a few weeks ago a direct Iranian attack on Saudi Arabia for the atrocities of Yemen led by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. To blame the tensions on Islam is incorrect as both are power-hungry nations that want the Middle East subservient to their respective nation.

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Do We Need Language?

Deema Al Ali
Vision International School

For as long as humans have existed, language has been the number one tool used for communication in the world. It’s used to share ideas, thoughts, and stories that help connect and unite people no matter the differences between them. In addition, languages shape the way we think and the way we view the world around us. As Angela Carter once said, “Language is power, life and the instrument of culture, the instrument of domination and liberation.”

There are about 7000 different languages spoken around the world, and all of them give their speakers a unique outlook on life that stands out from other languages. Their diverse structures and elaborate vocabulary play an important role in shaping our ideas and thought processes, which is why many people choose to learn new languages. Obtaining a new language is like gaining a new perspective you never knew existed before. By learning a new language, people understand more about the world and can possibly discover new ways of expressing themselves.

So, what if there was no such thing as language? I wouldn’t be writing this article right now. Without language, QLC wouldn’t be as big of a success because people wouldn’t be able to share their ideas. Our societies won’t learn and innovate because there would be no proper way of communicating our plans. Language is the bridge to success. Without it, we wouldn’t make it as far as we have right now.

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Collage Essay

Mohammed Gulzar
Qatar Academy Doha

Many of our delegates may be going through the process of applying to colleges this year. The essay is a key factor in the admissions decision. Here are some tips to help you get started:

Tip 1
UNDERSTAND: The first step is to understand what the university wants you to write about. Whether it’s the Common App essay, the UCAS personal statement or a supplemental prompt, it’s important to be precise. Make sure that your writing is clear, concise, on-topic and to the point.

Tip 2
BRAINSTORM: You won’t be able to fit everything into the space allowed. For the Common App prompts, write down all of your ideas, and circle the ones that are most meaningful to you; expound on them in your essay drafts. For the UCAS personal statement, create an outline of all of your relevant experiences, and include the ones that are most related to your course.

Tip 3
START EARLY: This is the part of the application that you should really spend some time on, as much as you need. Writing prompts can be deceptively difficult: for instance, it can be challenging to convey in 50 words or less “what’s important to you and why?” Give yourself the time to tell your story. Expect to create several drafts before your deadline.

Tip 4
PROOFREAD: Beyond providing personal insights and expounding on experiences, the universities want to know that you can actually write an essay using proper English. Unfortunately, proofreading is one of the most neglected parts of the essay. Don’t be afraid to ask for help! Share your essay drafts with your counselor, not only for feedback on your writing, but for help with grammatical corrections as well. A second set of eyes might catch something you may have missed.

Tip 5
WRITE YOUR OWN ESSAY: This may seem obvious, but no one else can capture your voice, your personality and your experiences besides YOU. Do not pay someone to write your essays, and do not allow a relative to compose them, either. Universities can always tell when an adult has tampered with a student’s writing. They don’t expect you to use the vocabulary of a philosopher, nor do they expect the writing to be on the level of a Ph.D thesis. Exaggerated essays are always red flags, and can negatively impact your admissions decision.
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