

Podcast series

Leadership in Focus

Episode 3 – Leadership through the lens of history

Discussion guide

The School Leadership Institute's Leadership in Focus podcast series shines a spotlight on school leaders and explores the key issues and challenges they face. This episode focuses on the attributes of historical leaders that enabled them to be effective in their role and how they can be applied to school leadership.

[Episode 3 – Leadership through the lens of history](#)
14:15 mins

Speakers

- **Joanne Jarvis:** SLI Director and host of the series
- **Judy King:** secondary principal, lecturer in history and politics, WEA

Discussion points

For individuals

- What are the attributes of effective leaders, as outlined in this podcast?
- Why is moral purpose important in leadership?
- What behaviours and actions bring people together to achieve consensus and relational trust?

For teams

- Discuss how the leadership mindsets of great leaders in history are also the mindsets of effective leaders of schools today. How do we demonstrate the mindsets of courage and curiosity in our practices?
- Joanne Jarvis says, 'For me, courage is about being vulnerable whilst also maintaining high standards of myself and others. It's about not walking past the standard that I'm not prepared to accept.' Outline ways this is reflected in the daily practices of school leaders.

- Eleanor Roosevelt is quoted as having said, 'A good leader inspires people to have confidence in the leader. A great leader inspires people to have confidence in themselves'. How does this apply to great school leaders?
- Consider a historical narrative that might describe the leadership context of your setting and how it relates to the commitment to action of your moral purpose.

For your reference

Curtin University ['Our namesake: John Curtin'](#)
Online article

National Museum Australia ['Prime Ministers of Australia: Bob Hawke'](#)
Online article

Oxford Law Faculty [How Eleanor Roosevelt Won the Battle for Human Rights](#)
YouTube video 15:44 mins

University of Sydney Charles Perkins Centre ['Who is Charles Perkins?'](#)
Online article

WEA Sydney [Judith King](#)
Information about short courses