

## Coach Carter Reflection Questions

- 1. What are some examples in the movie of a leader focusing on terminal values (e.g., freedom, self-respect, etc. – see p. 117)? What are some examples in the movie of a leader focusing on instrumental values (e.g., honest, responsibility, etc. – see p. 117)? How were those terminal and instrumental values communicated?***

After watching this film I would say that Coach Carter demonstrated terminal values such as equality, liberty, and, self-respect, respect for others, and justice. Examples would include when he allowed the players on his team their own liberty to choose whether they wanted to play, what they wanted to achieve, and whether they would sign the contract to be part of the team. Another instance when Coach Carter demonstrated justice was when he upheld the contract by not allowing anyone to be an exception to its terms. This was true when Mr. Cruz returned to the team and was held accountable for making up the work he had previously missed. This was also true when he treated his son the same as he would any other member of the team. He also showed respect towards the team emphasizing there was equality among them. This equality came in ways both on and off the court, and inside and outside the classroom. He used examples of instrumental values such as self-controlled, obedient, responsible, and ambitious. These were satisfied repeatedly throughout the movie as he shaped the members of the team from thugs and hoodlums, to responsible men. This was a result of his integrity of upholding the terms of the contract for which they signed. Coach Carter engaged with the team in such a manner that he inspired and uplifted the team to build each other up and really instill team unity among them.

- 2. What are some examples in the movie of a leader empowering followers? How was that empowerment communicated?***

The first example which stood out to me was when Carter first took over as coach of the team. In his first face-to-face contact with the team members he referred to each of them as “sir”. He explained that the term sir was one of respect. Another example of him empowering those that followed him was when he empowered them with responsibility. Until then, the players were not really accountable for anything other than themselves. Coach Carter empowered them with responsibility through them signing the contract and agreeing to its terms. By using the contractual terms repeatedly throughout the movie, Coach Carter was able to empower his players continuously with confidence and a hard work ethic. This in turn led to the reality of these kids being able to one day play college basketball and obtain a higher level of education. He empowered his team with new found hope.

**3. *How was intellectual stimulation (e.g., creativity, innovation, problem-solving, etc.) communicated and enacted in the movie? Were there examples of missed opportunities for intellectual stimulation? What were differences in outcomes, if any, of when intellectual stimulation was present and when it was absent?***

The contract was the biggest occurrence of when intellectual stimulation was used in the movie as it was repeatedly referred to. When Coach Carter required the signing of contracts regarding behavior and academics, he was helping the team to set new standards and recreate their image. Until he took over, basketball was all that had previously mattered to the team. Winning was their only goal. Coach Carter, through the use of a contract, used intellectual stimulation to uphold academic requirements, behavioral requirements, and demeanor requirements. Coach Carter's methods of coaching proved to be very effective. He made sure to capitalize on every opportunity that he could to communicate intellectually with his team. Small moments like when his team used derogatory language allowed him to educate them about the history of the terms. When his team became prideful after winning several games they started trying to not only win, but to humiliate their opponents. He capitalized on this moment to reset them and regulate them by making them all do 500 pushups. One monumental situation which occurred was the lockout. Most everybody saw this as a mistake and a missed opportunity for the boys to play ball, but Carter was trying to emphasize the importance of academics. He really proved the concept of a student athlete because as the lockout ended, his team still disciplined themselves academically before they earned their privilege to play ball. After watching this film I feel that Coach Carter was very effective in his methods as a coach and leader. I feel that all of the outcomes were the same, effective and meaningful.

**4. *How would you rate and evaluate leadership communication ability in the movie? When were there examples of open communication? When were there examples of poor leadership communication? What were differences in outcomes, if any, of when open communication was present and when it was absent?***

I would give this film a good rating in its ability to use leadership communication. Overall the film was very uplifting, motivating, and inspirational. As I evaluate this film it is obvious that communication was used frequently. Coach Carter formed a strong relationship and respect between himself and the members of the team by communicating with them. One way in which he used a form of communication was when he taught the team different plays. He did this by naming the plays each after a female individual he had known from earlier in his life. Another example of communication was when the lockout occurred. Initially I had presumed that this was a negative approach because there was a lack of communication, nothing but a sign on the door. But then I realized that communication can be more than just verbally. The lockout stood for much more than just deprivation of privilege, it stood for the enforcement the contract which included transforming these players into student athletes and

not athletes alone. One moment in the film that communication proved to be very successful was when he used statistics to relay his message. Using statistical data he opened his players' eyes to the reality of academic failure that was prevalent inside Richmond High. The last form of communication that I found to be very effective was within the style that Coach Carter dealt with his players. When delivering new goals or tasks to them he would almost always guarantee or promise results. This is crucial in communication because it is reassuring. I feel that Coach Carter did a very good job in his communication efforts as a leader in this film. All of his effort in the end proved to have effective outcomes.