

FINAL THOUGHTS

Becoming a leader takes a lot of work, but growing these leadership skills is going to help you in every area of life. Leadership develops daily, not in a day. It is important to remember that our passion for Life means hard work. We cannot expect to put in minimal effort & accomplish the mission we have set out for. We must put the work in. Everything that each one of YOU is able to accomplish as a student, is what will leave the legacy for Life for students on your campus in the following years. That is how we make history, by leaving places with a stronger culture for Life then when we first arrived at them. And, knowing that we are the generation that will **abolish abortion, makes every bit of hard work worth it.**

Join Students for Life HQ

Students for Life HQ is a FREE, online platform for you to gain access to custom trainings, tools, and collaboration. You will earn free SFLA merchandise and materials as you participate. You can even build strong group members and officers by empowering them to join, too! Get started TODAY at: StudentsforLifeHQ.com.

Exclusive SFLA Leadership Fellowships

Do you think you have what it takes? SFLA's annual Leadership Fellowships accept 50 of our nation's top student leaders and bring them together for trainings and activism followed by year-long mentorships, speakers, and pro-life training opportunities. Applications are open January through March of each year. Talk to your SFLA Regional Coordinator about applying for the Leadership Fellowship that's right for you:



William Wilberforce Fellowship for college leaders



Christian Leadership Fellowship for college leaders at religious institutions



Thaddeus Stevens Fellowship for high school and homeschool leaders



Invictus Men's Fellowship for men in college and graduate schools



Hildegard Art Fellowship for pro-life artists in college and graduate schools



Standing With You Fellowship for supportive services leaders in college and graduate school

10 TIPS

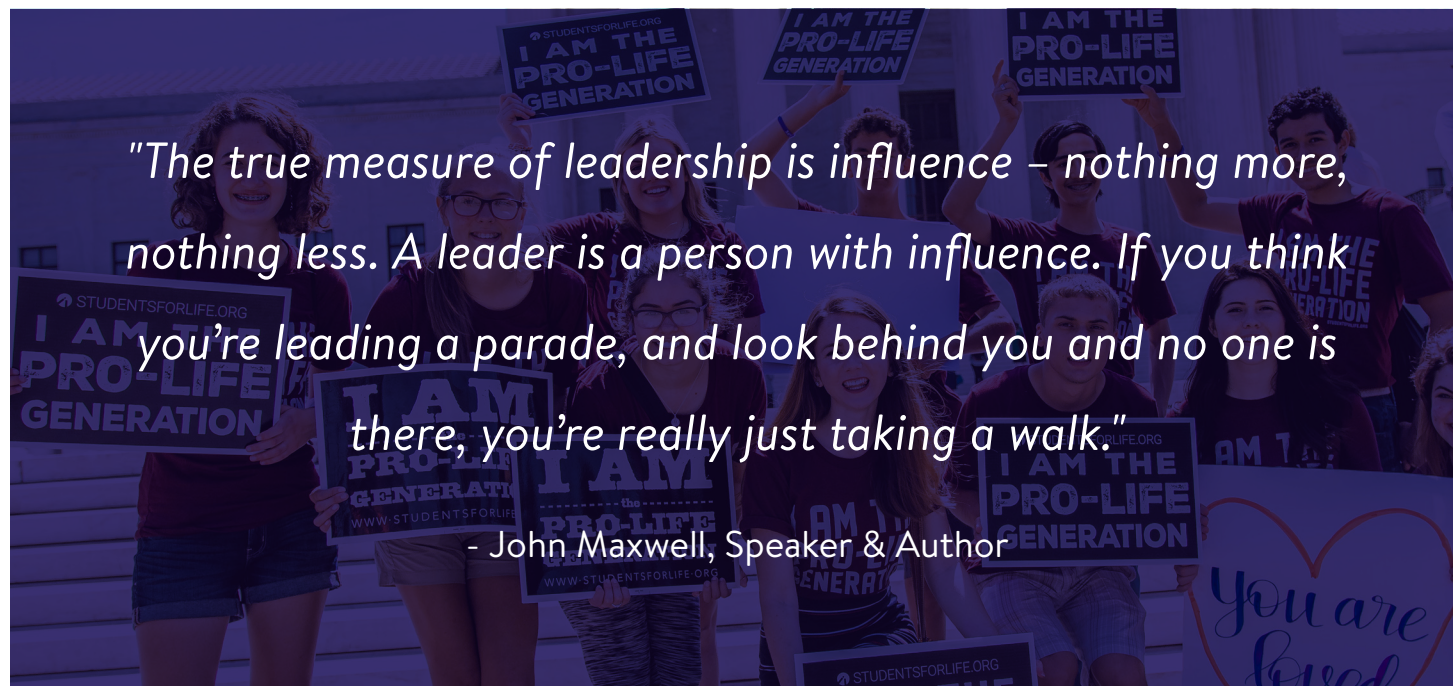
ON HOW TO BE A GREAT

PRO-LIFE LEADER



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"The true measure of leadership is influence – nothing more, nothing less. A leader is a person with influence. If you think you're leading a parade, and look behind you and no one is there, you're really just taking a walk."

- John Maxwell, Speaker & Author

Here are a few tips from *Students for Life of America* on how to become a successful and influential pro-life group leader and maximize your impact at your school.

- 1 LEADERS ARE PREPARED:** By becoming the leader of your *Students for Life* group at your campus, you will be seen by your peers as the expert on the issue of abortion. Students are now going to start coming to you when they have questions about abortion. You need to know how to articulate your pro-life position well and dialogue with those who disagree with you. You also need to be prepared to direct people to local life-affirming Pregnancy Help Centers and give hope to those who have experienced abortion. Preparation is not just about knowing the facts. As a leader, you need to be prepared for all outcomes and possibilities when it comes to planning events. Think about what may not go according to plan and have a back-up ready.
- 2 LEADERS SEE THE BIG PICTURE:** You are responsible for having the vision! Great leaders have three things that drive them: mission, vision, and strategy. What is the big picture for your pro-life group? What do you want the result to be? You must answer these questions if you truly want to build a sustainable and effective pro-life group. Write down your group's mission and vision to use as a reference and for inspiration when needed.
- 3 LEADERS SET GOALS:** Leaders set goals to accomplish the vision and mission. You have to figure out how you're going to accomplish your goal. Use the SMART system for each of your goals; ensure they are Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Timely. Set a plan for your year. Do not wait until the heat of finals week to plan events or find out how to get approval for a movie night. (*Ask your SFLA Regional Coordinator for a Plan Your Year Guide*).
- 4 LEADERS HAVE HIGH STANDARDS:** You can't expect your group to do something you are unwilling to do. Setting and achieving high standards for yourself can be challenging, especially if others around you are not setting high standards for themselves. However, this is exactly what separates a leader from the rest of the pack – the willingness to achieve at higher levels. Your example will push others to strive for success.

- 5 LEADERS MASTER THEIR ATTITUDE:** You have no control over how other people respond to things, but you have absolute control over your reactions and overall attitude. As leader of a pro-life group, you expect to face a lot of challenges both within the group and on your campus. In order to overcome opposition, you must master your own attitude. Oftentimes, in the face of adversity, you have to put on a brave face in order to inspire others. Demonstrate your confidence and positive attitude and it will be contagious among your members.
- 6 LEADERS ARE TEAM PLAYERS:** The best leaders are the ones who find that balance between knowing what you have to do yourself and knowing what to delegate to others. They know when to step back and when to step up. Delegation is allowing others to succeed. Consider an individual's specific strengths and give him/her a chance to take the lead on a project or an event. Show your team how to do things and help them, then set clear expectations and hold them accountable.
- 7 LEADERS BUILD UP THE TEAM:** Leaders share their successes with the people they lead. This can be as simple as offering public recognition or a thank you card. These efforts can go a long way in building loyalty, too.
Leaders don't publicly criticize their teammates. This will breed a spirit of negativity. Instead, seek to confront an individual one-on-one or with a respected third party, like an advisor. As a rule, praise in public and criticize in private.
- 8 LEADERS TAKE RISKS:** Let's face it: being a pro-life student has its risks. There are students and administrators who may not support you. Sometimes, just speaking up to defend life in class can be overwhelming.
A leader who consistently plays it safe will never put themselves, or the people they lead, in a position to experience success. You may want to choose the safest paths, but if you stick with doing the same old thing because of fear, then you will become paralyzed. Be courageous!
- 9 LEADERS TAKE RESPONSIBILITY:** When things go wrong, leaders take responsibility. The leader recognizes that at the end of the day, they are responsible for the successes and failures of the group. You must hold yourself accountable to the actions of all group members, especially in times of struggle or failure. Don't play the blame game or make excuses. Take time to analyze both successes and failures and learn from them.
- 10 LEADERS MAKE OTHER LEADERS:** As a leader, you should be constantly recruiting new members. Keep an eye out for people who show dedication, passion, and a willingness to learn. They are your future leaders. Start building leaders by giving members small tasks and then slowly giving them more and more responsibility. Allow them to learn through experience, as this will grow their confidence in their ability to lead. Not everyone will stick with it, but if you are continually recruiting and looking for new leaders, you will be able to develop enough for your group to continue after your graduation. Your success as a leader is truly tested when you leave, and your group either thrives or disappears.