

IS 228

What makes a good military leader?

Name: _____ C: _____

Date: _____

Example:

Famed computer scientist Steve Jobs once said that the difference between a leader and a follower is innovation, or trying a new way of doing something. I think that the great leaders of the American Civil War were innovators who shared a few character traits. They are experience, boldness and trustworthiness

“Lee said, “He has lost his left arm, but I have lost my right arm.”” This shows that he trusted him. As you can see, this is very important.

Being willing to take risks is a sign of boldness. According to the William Tecumseh Sherman biography, “Sherman was not afraid to take risks. He led his troops to march across Georgia...” Leading his troops across the entire state of Georgia seems like a foolish move, but General Sherman helped destroy Georgia during the Civil War. This made him very successful and his troops respected him for his success.

One way to know how to do something is if you did it before. Like I am really good at basketball because I played before. “Jackson had served in the Mexican War” (Jackson Biography) and “Sherman ... fought in the Mexican War” (Sherman Biography). Both men fought in the Mexican war. This gave them an opportunity to learn the best ways to defeat their enemy. They learned how hard it is for soldiers, so they can know how to treat soldiers when they lead them. The best way to learn something is to do it.

All in all, the good leaders have qualities that make them good. Experience, being trustworthy and being bold make a good military leader. Sherman and Jackson were successful in the Civil War, just like Steve Jobs was successful at making computers and electronic devices that people enjoyed by being bold, trustworthy and experienced.