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1. Assess your role within the cohort? Did you choose this role or was this role assigned? Explain.

I consider that I play different roles in this cohort at different times. The majority of the time I play "comic relief". I also feel that I provide the leadership role, during times that I feel are "comfortable". I found that sometimes I have avoided leadership so that I can also avoid conflict because this group has so many leaders. This is a very diverse cohort with so many wonderfully strong personalities. I believe that I chose the role of class clown for many different reasons. I played the role of class clown as a defense mechanism and out of habit. I had a "comfortable" high school experience with friends and a great social life due to my ability to make people laugh. I find that when I enter new experiences it is like second nature to assume this role.

2. Describe your leadership qualities.

I feel that my leadership qualities include my sense of humor and that I am compassionate and want to see the other members of my group succeed.

3. Assess what leadership roles you have and have not taken within the cohort. Why did you make the choices you did to lead or not lead?

I made the choice to lead or not to lead as I mentioned above. This is a very diverse cohort with many strong personalities and it was easier to allow others to lead. I lead when I felt it was "comfortable" usually during organizing social gatherings and inside of smaller groups where a strong leader was not already defined.

4. Assess the possibilities for leadership in the cohort environment; how will you choose to respond to these possibilities? What risks are there?

I believe that the possibilities are good for anyone to lead in this cohort. I will choose to lead sometimes outside of my comfort zone. I think that the risks at this point will be minimum because of the short time that we have left and the bonds that we have created and people have strong support systems within the cohort.

Adam,

I know that you have many leadership abilities, and I have enjoyed your great sense of humor "comic relief", encouragement and support. I agree with you that there aren't many risks in leading in our cohort at this time; after all, we all know each other pretty well by now and I believe accept one another for who we are (as social workers are supposed to do). My life has changed and deepened from knowing you; you have many

strengths, abilities, and gifts. It will be exciting to see what area of social work you will demonstrate all your leadership abilities within; wherever it is, I am confident that you will excel.

Joan

Adam, I think that you have the ability to lead a group to total success. You are very organized, dependable and passionate person. You have significant interpersonal skills within such as being an effective communicator and building trust worthy relationships. I think that you sometimes use your humor as a way to hide and I think this because that is what I do and have always done. We want to both be liked and to be on everyone's good side after all that is where it is safe. I just want you to know that you are a success. You are a generous, respectful, and loving individual and much like me we have to find our strength from within and stop looking to others to make us feel whole. I can see you in me and we are survivors. If you were my leader, I would follow.

Adam,

Well when it comes to talking about you the list keeps going so I'm just going to touch base on your leadership qualities. When I had to quit my internship at Girl's Inc. and start at St. Barnabas you clearly took on the leadership role of showing me the ropes and explaining how things were done. You also took me under your wing and have continuously helped me with troublesome assignments and situations I needed advice with. Your role as a leader consists of you being a great listener, one who always has input (in your words "does that make sense" when it always does), and best of all your sense of humor makes you so much easier to work with. You are also precise in making sure you get things done on time. I can always count on you and know that you will be there and that is what everyone looks for in a GREAT leader.

Adam,

I've always enjoyed being in a group with you, your work ethic is masterful. However, I see you shy away from leadership opportunities where you would most likely excel. I've also noticed when you're in the position of co-leader, you stand as a strong leader, willing to take risks beyond what you would normally. You voice your ideas with enthusiasm and your excitement oozes out to the other group members

Adam

I think you have come so far in terms understanding what people are going through. Yes, you are a comic relief to many of us but you are much more than that. You are a great listener and if you could ever get over having everyone like you all the time (which is a barrier for many of us, me included) you make a great leader.

Jen

Hello Adam,

Adam I think you are a born leader because you are committed in making sure the job is completed. You are friendly, and you always make people feel comfortable regardless of their status in life. Thanks for everything.

Sandra

Adam,

Well, what can I say about you that has not already been said. I think you are a lot of times the comic relief for the class, but I think you hide behind that sometimes as well because it is an easy, natural role for you to take. If I have ever heard someone ask, "Does that make sense" more than they should, it is you. You have progressive ideas and opinions but you sometimes let the fear of whether or not they make sense overshadow your confidence. I think you have many more skills than what you give yourself credit for. I think you put others before yourself a lot of times in order to get the job done. I believe once you assume your role as a professional and all of your skills come together collectively you will make one dynamic professional in whatever role you take.

Cayce

Adam,

I told you this after class last week but I am going to say it here as well. Your presentation in Sr Seminar last week was phenomenal! You exuded confidence and only once did you ask us "Does that make sense?" You were articulate and made us understand your unique journey. You have grown so much from our first presentation in HBSE I. (Boy does that seem like ions ago!) I value your friendship and the fun you bring to class. Thank you for being Adam!

Linda

Adam,

I really do believe that you are a natural leader. You have the ability to rein everyone in and get a job done. You are helpful, smart, funny, insightful, and are chock full of creativity. As much as you joke about how beautiful you are, how perfect you are, yadda yadda yadda, you know that you are really held back from your full potential because you lack confidence. Imagine how much more you could accomplish if you just believed in yourself!

One thing that I am not sure if anyone mentioned is that you are a caretaker. You perhaps embody the word "caretaker" better than anyone I have ever met. If anyone needs anything, you give it. If there is a role that is unfilled, you take it. If someone needs a hug, a shoulder, or an ear, you grab, you lean and you listen. This is evident through your work at St. Barnabas, but also in your personal life with your friends and family. I think

we all know that if we ever needed anything, we could come to you and you would be willing to help, give or bake your way through it.