



Umbrella

“What is a leader?” In the previous year, I have been pondering this question over and over again. After a year, I realize that a leader is more or less like an umbrella – an umbrella which endures adverse weather conditions, for staying strong to protect human beings.

A year ago, I was glad to be selected as the Head Prefect as well as the Chairperson of Debate Team in school. With much surprise and excitement, I looked forward to my journey of being a leader in school. Yet things did not go as I expected. Instead of a wide, flat path, ahead of me was a rough track with obstacles all over. Numerous questions were swirling in my head: in Prefect Team with over 80 prefects, how should I ensure a high work efficiency? How should I motivate the prefects? How should I help them find their own values in the seemingly repetitive duties? I had no idea. Debate Team on the other hand, has fewer members. Nonetheless, even with only 10 of us was never an easy job to let every single teammate enjoy himself or herself as a debater, sacrificing their time for studies and entertainments. I felt helpless.

Ever since I was small, “leader” to me was a job merely for allocating work and assigning duties, whereas leaders themselves were observers most of the time. This perception lasted until this year, when I actually became one. Having experienced the ups and downs, I realized that job allocation is just the basic responsibility of a leader. Whether he or she can unite the teammates, take the team’s benefits precedence over their own is what makes a good leader. I have been prioritizing my own gains at the top in the past years, but for now, I understand that there must be somebody who sacrifices their own interests and takes responsibility when things go wrong, and this person is the leader, who is indeed the same as an umbrella -- sacrificing itself to avoid raindrops falling onto its master.

Umbrella seldom appeals us on normal days, what it does is staying in bags, wandering on the street with its owner. But when there is heavy rain, umbrella plays its role. It never hesitates to open up itself, for letting its master continue his or her walk without stopping until reaching the destiny. Isn’t this what a leader does? I believe that a leader is not somebody lofty, instead they walk with their teammates; they are not aloof or harsh, instead they are encouraging; they do not exaggerate things, instead they stand out to be the light when the dark comes, when everyone else is frustrated. By this, the team can keep going despite all kinds of challenges. And I believe this is what a “leader” is.

All in all, I must express my sincere gratitude to teachers who granted me the chance to be a leader this year, allowing me to try, fail and experience. In the future, with passion and humbleness, I will continue to strive for the best and play the role of an umbrella. Hope that I can devote myself in the activities I join and face every obstacle with optimism.