My reflections were about the relational leadership model, the 5 leadership practices, and their relationship to my group during the completion of our group assignment. While completing the project to further our knowledge on leadership, we reflected and analyzed where the different theories came up in real life. This helped us better understand the information we were learning because of its practical application.

At the begging of the assignment we took a quiz to see what type of leader we were. The results of our leadership practice inventory were very similar. As a group we are competitive, strategic, and achievers with our main strength in the influencing category of teamwork. Our group is able to effectively plan, execute, and manage the completion assignment without stressing over others completing their part. I believe this is the most important aspect of our group’s quest to achieve our goals because we have assurance that everyone will try their best.

The practice of the relational leadership model which we were given to learn was Model the Way. Model the Way is comprised of clarifying values, finding your voice, and affirming shared values.

Clarifying values. The first part of this leadership practice is finding yourself. This is the most crucial step of this practice. Without finding yourself how could you possibly know what you stand for? You need to develop a unique mindset. One that won’t change on individual circumstances, instead, one that you feel comfortable with standing by in the long term. Without a clear sense of what you stand for, you won’t be able to make consistent and fair judgments. “You have to freely and honestly choose the principles you will use to guide your decisions and actions. Then you have to genuinely express yourself.

Finding your voice. The concept of find your voice is that you need apply your values and beliefs to practical situations and be willing to voice them regardless of the situation. In order to do this however, it is crucial that you have found your “inner self” in terms of what you stand for. After developing a sense of self, you must then be able to apply it to the real world through voicing. You need to become educated on the values you believe represent you and be able express them articulately. “When you have clarified your values and found your voice, you will also find the inner confidence necessary to express ideas, chose a direction, make tough decisions, act with determination, and be able to take charge of your life rather than impersonating others.”

Affirming shared values. No leadership model will succeed if all of the subjects are not on the same page. Establishing a set of shared values creates a standard for how the group as a whole approaches situations. This is critical because it helps the group act as one. When the group acts as one it allows for less focus to be put on policing the individuals and more to be put on maximizing productivity.