

"Have you been in leadership positions in school/university? If yes, what are the biggest challenges you have faced and what have you learned from it ?" (800 WORDS)

Assuming the role of class monitor is probably the most desired dream of many students when it is time for the new academic session during the beginning of every year. It was certainly the same in my case. Correspondingly, I have assumed the role as a class monitor twice during my high school, once during my form 2 and the other in form 5. Being a class monitor certainly uplift ones' name and glamour in the school but it takes countless hurdles to fulfil its demands and responsibilities. However, I really enjoyed and appreciate every bit of being a class leader because it allowed me to gain various valuable experiences and lessons which I am sure will be useful later.

One of the major challenges of a class monitor is treating everyone equally in class. As a dutiful class monitor I have to be unbiased and serve my classmates fairly. For instance, if there is a misconduct in the class, the class monitor must ensure that the offender is punished appropriately regardless of his relationship with the offender. However, this might cause a stern in friendships if the person is a close friend. On the other hand, if the class monitor were to turn a blind eye on the offences it shows the leader's insincerity and causes dissatisfaction among the people. As a result, this will have a great effect on the harmony of the class. Therefore, it is important to be fair with the responsibilities given and carry out the duties obediently.

Next, the greatest quality of a leader is to always be aware of problems faced by others and take initiatives to solve them. Being a class monitor does also require us to show empathy towards difficulties faced by our classmates. Here, this requires the leader to be a good trouble-shooter to be able to come up with effective solutions for the problems. As a class monitor, I must always ensure that all my classmates are feeling comfortable with their classroom environment, initiate efforts to help those who are struggling in their studies and ensure all the aspects within the limits of a class monitor is fulfilled completely. Nevertheless, this comes with a great weight since it takes extra effort to identify the problems faced by my classmates and then finding an ideal solution. For this, I should have to develop a close bond with everyone in the class to have understand them better and discover the problems faced by them. The complications are not just limited academically but also could be about their emotions, family issues, ambitions and so on. A right guideline is necessary to solve the problems which in many cases are handled by the school counsellor or the teacher. As a class monitor, I hold the responsibility to assist my fellow classmates with their hardships by supporting them emotionally or at least by pointing them to the right direction towards help available in the school.

Leadership positions require a good management of emotional intelligence which is being in command of our own emotions. Class monitor role involves engagement with people of different characteristics. Therefore, it is vital to always be patient when dealing with them and while carrying out our duties. It is proven that many victorious people are the ones who successfully handle their emotions as it has a major influence in the product. So, it is better to strategize different approaches while dealing with fellow classmates to prevent any sort of conflicts which might lead to misunderstandings and disagreements. In this case, if I am required to convey advices to my classmates involving their behaviour or attitude I would choose to deliver them in a friendlier manner which has a very low possibility of a negative impact. Thereafter, it is also crucial to receive feedbacks

on our performance as a class monitor with open heart either a positive or a negative one. These opinions are really valuable which gives us the opportunity to analyse and improve ourselves. Nonetheless, this could also be a good medium to boost our socialising skills.

The commitments of a class monitor are indeed countless. Class monitors are assigned to perform a variety of daily tasks which includes taking down attendance, making homework announcements, collecting books and assisting teachers in classroom management. Since a class monitor is also a student, his academic engagements cannot be neglected. Proper time management skills are essential to withstand the hectic schedule in school. Only a percipient leader would smartly manage himself within the leadership and academic commitments. Loss of concentration in studies can be detrimental to academic performances as well as the examination achievements. As a good class monitor it is important to set an example for other students to look-up-to excelling in both academics and extra-curricular activities. Due to this, I really worked hard to improve my time management skills. I gave priorities to my responsibility as a class monitor, my studies as well as my co-curricular participation. All it takes is self-awareness. A better understanding about ourselves, our strengths and weaknesses is a key advantage. This helps us to make the right decisions for the benefit of ourselves and affect the people around me positively.