Many people think that leadership is a valuable experience. What do you think is important about the experience of leadership? Write an essay for your classmates explaining why you think a leadership experience is valuable and giving reasons to support your point of view.

Every morning you step into the school lobby, and before you know it, people are smiling and saying “Hi.” Some friends rush to walk with you, and people whom you barely know greet you too. It makes you feel great. Then the secretary steps out of the school office. She frowns and hands you a list of all the things that haven’t yet been done for the upcoming school dance. She asks you to find out who will do each task. Suddenly you don’t feel so happy. Why are you class president, anyway?

Being class president is a lot of work, but I accepted the job because I believe being a leader is extremely rewarding. Leadership gives you the opportunity to really help other people. I’m sure that on many days, it’s exhausting being president of the United States. Yet that person does so much to help others. Senior citizens, kids, and new immigrants can have a better experience because of what a president can do. What an incredible feeling it must give the president! Community leaders and school leaders have the same chance to make a difference in the world. When I was president of our school’s environment club, we cleaned up a highway. It was hard work but a valuable experience. Although it may sound like a small thing, it made everyone in the club very proud.

Being a leader also means working with people and trying to get them to participate in accomplishing a goal. As a leader you’re learning all the time. A hockey coach, for example, is a leader. Coaches have to know their players in order to learn what motivates them and makes them play well. Coaches also have to know and work with players’ families, community leaders, and other coaches. In addition to inspiring the team to win games, a good coach can get people involved in an exciting new project, such as building a new hockey rink or raising money for new hockey equipment.

Finally, leaders who are fair and take their responsibilities seriously earn the respect of the people they lead. Being respected by others is a wonderful feeling. In addition, when people respect you, they listen to what
you have to say. For example, when a state senator speaks at a community event, people come to the event. Just being a leader makes people curious to hear you talk. The state senator would probably get to sit at the best table and might even receive honors and awards from the community. Those are more signs of respect.

I passionately believe that people should accept the challenge of being leaders. Believe me, you will grow, learn, and mature as a result. We need more caring, responsible, and inspiring leaders in our society.