

## The Devil Wears Prada – Facilitator Guide

### Leadership through Film and Literature Curriculum



#### Film Themes

---

##### Power

- Coercive
- Reward
- Legitimate
- Expert
- Referent

##### Ethics

Consciousness of self  
Stakeholders

#### Your Role as a Facilitator

---

Your role as a facilitator is mainly to promote a dialogue amongst participants. The facilitator opens the experience by welcoming participations, giving a brief overview of the film and asking participants to watch for the above listed themes. The facilitator will ask questions and provide insight on leadership topics and field questions from participants.

**The facilitator should mention to the participants that the writers of this curriculum understand the varying levels that students may or may not connect to this film and the themes noted above.**

The facilitator is responsible for providing the following:

- Providing a television & DVD player
- Providing a space to view the film
- Making copies of the participant guide (page 3 of this packet)
- Making copies of the participant worksheet (page 4 of this packet) \*this is completely optional and use depends on how formal of an experience you are looking to provide

#### Film Synopsis

---

The Devil Wears Prada

Year made: 2006

Runtime: 109 min

Country: USA

Language: English

Color: Color

Film image and synopsis courtesy of imdb.com

The story tells the professional adventure of Andrea, whose greatest dream is to become a journalist. Andrea gets a job in the fashion industry through Runway magazine, the most famous of its type, to make ends meet. But Andrea won't develop her writing skills in the magazine, but her talents as the editor in chief's assistant, Miranda. The problem is that Miranda is a merciless, posh and cruel woman, making the experience a living hell for her. The environment at Runway is cold and everyone is extremely critical of other's physical appearance. Andrea will have to change her simple and plain style, for a more trendy and elegant one, in order to gain the acceptance of her ruthless boss and colleagues.

Despite everything against Andrea in the office, she will consider the experience as a challenge, drastically changing her clothes and self-image. Nevertheless, the job becomes extremely demanding, because of Miranda's tough work rhythm and nearly impossible tasks, leaving Andrea without a private life with her boyfriend, family and friends.

## Learning Outcomes

---

Participants should participate in a dialogue about...

- various leadership styles and qualities
- **charisma** and how it relates to leadership
- the implications of **power** and the different types of power demonstrated in the film
- the importance of **consciousness of self**, free thinking, and inspiring others
- the notion of **stakeholders** and getting other's on board with a vision
- **ethics** in the workplace

## Talking Points

---

Please ensure to discuss questions that are in bold.

Leadership Discussion

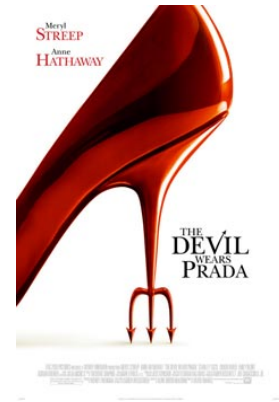
- **What are some of the qualities exemplified through this film?**
- Who are Miranda's stakeholders? How does she relate to them? What is her relationship with the stakeholders like?
- **Miranda exemplifies many types of power throughout the film. What are some examples?**
- **What is an example of coercive power from the film?**
  - (Coercive power is power derived through the ability to punish.)
- **What is an example of reward power from the film?**
  - (Reward power is power derived through an ability to offer rewards.)
- **What is an example of legitimate power from the film?**
  - (Legitimate power is power derived through one's position, such as a police officer or elected official.)
- **What is an example of expert power from the film?**
  - (Expert power is power derived through advanced knowledge or experience in a particular subject.)
- **What is an example of referent power from the film?**
  - (Referent power is power given to an individual due to respect and/or desire to be similar to that individual.)
- **Miranda starts giving more responsibility to Andrea and less to Emily. What does this do to Emily? Why did this happen?**
- **What does Miranda do well as a leader?**
- **What are Miranda's downfalls as a leader?**
- **Is Miranda's leadership style effective?**
- **How do others respond to Miranda's leadership style?**
- What role does Miranda play in Andrea's life?
- At what point did Andrea start to come into her own?
- What effect does her work have on her personal life?
- **Toward the end of the film, Miranda makes a deal to save her position which puts an end to Nigel's promotion. Was this ethical?**
- Is Miranda an ethical leader?
- At the end of the film Andrea throws her cell phone into the fountain. What does this symbolize?

Personal Experience

- Did you enjoy the film?
- How has this film inspired you?
- **What element of leadership do you most take away from this film?**
- **Have you ever had a supervisor who reminds you of Miranda?**
- **What is your opinion of Miranda as a leader? Why?**
- **Unlike Andrea, would you have stayed in the position?**

## The Devil Wears Prada - Participant Guide

### Leadership through Film and Literature Curriculum



#### Film Themes

---

Look for the following qualities during the film!

- Power
  - Coercive
  - Reward
  - Legitimate
  - Expert
  - Referent
- Ethics
- Consciousness of self
- Stakeholders

#### Film Synopsis

---

The Devil Wears Prada

Year made: 2006

Runtime: 109 min

Country: USA

Language: English

Color: Color

Film image and synopsis courtesy of imdb.com

The story tells the professional adventure of Andrea, whose greatest dream is to become a journalist. Andrea gets a job in the fashion industry through Runway magazine, the most famous of its type, to make ends meet. But Andrea won't develop her writing skills in the magazine, but her talents as the editor in chief's assistant, Miranda. The problem is that Miranda is a merciless, posh and cruel woman, making the experience a living hell for her. The environment at Runway is cold and everyone is extremely critical of other's physical appearance. Andrea will have to change her simple and plain style, for a more trendy and elegant one, in order to gain the acceptance of her ruthless boss and colleagues.

Despite everything against Andrea in the office, she will consider the experience as a challenge, drastically changing her clothes and self-image. Nevertheless, the job becomes extremely demanding, because of Miranda's tough work rhythm and nearly impossible tasks, leaving Andrea without a private life with her boyfriend, family and friends.

#### Suggested Readings

---

[Enlist Others: Attracting People to Common Purposes](#), James Kouzes and Barry Posner

[The Devil Wears Prada](#), Lauren Weisberger

[The Servant Leader: How to Build a Creative Team, Develop Great Morale, and Improve Bottom Line Performance](#), James A. Autry

[When Fish Fly: Lessons for Creating a Vital and Energized Workplace from the World Famous Pike Place Fish Market](#), Joseph Michelli, John Yokoyama, & Joseph A. Michelli

