

My name is Aaron and I lead with red energy. My behaviour and reactions are right.

I'm not new to leading. I have lead myself, just like everyone else, since I could crawl. Like any other child I was able to freely explore life, make mistakes, and discover my limits. I was able to find a self-leading method that worked for me.

Throughout school and early in my career I learned to lead projects. It was quite natural to do after learning to lead myself. Just like in my personal life I found that with enough effort, focus, and optimism most projects or issues were easily overcome. I would imagine a solution, seek help if I required it, perform the work, and then it was over. When I did fail I would look inwards and discover what must have gone wrong – “what could I do to prevent this next time?”

Then I was required to be a leader of people. It was like hitting a brick wall.

I first treated my subordinates like excel sheets. I would think, “I provide to you some code and data to run and then you run it. I'll see you when I need something else completed.” That failed almost instantly – most people don't like being treated like a computer.

Then, like any inexperienced leader, I overcompensated. I said to myself, “well if they are like me, I'd like an idea or a goal and I would like to find my own way to reach that idea or goal”. Whoops, that didn't work either. Some preferred quite a bit more intervention by their leader. Those that did succeed in completing a project would come under intense fire from me. “You didn't make the exact solution that I had in my mind...”

I learned that my techniques for leading myself or projects did not easily copy over to leading people. A few more years have passed and now I'm here - still discovering what a leader of people should be.

This class has taught me a few techniques (coaching, heart math) and ideas (controlling only yourself, four colour energies) that I'm sure to use. The best take-away from this class, however, is that it has made the connection for me between the four colour energies and how you lead yourself. How you react to uncertainty, how quickly you make decisions, how tolerable you are of other people – all of these behaviours are direct results of the how you lead yourself.

Without this class I think that it would've taken me a while longer to understand that everybody's way of leading themselves is what works for them. They also have just as much experience with leading themselves as I have with leading myself. I've learned that their behaviours and reactions are right too. Mine are right, but only for myself.

My final thought, simply put: maybe leading others involves not leading them at all, but instead providing a comfortable, meaningful, and resourceful environment for them to successfully lead themselves.