No matter who you are, or what you do, or how much wealth or material possessions you have, you have the ability to become a leader in your own life – and profoundly change it, and the lives of those around you, for the better. While standards like title, responsibility, authority, financial standing or occupation can be universal measures to establish leaders, being a leader can have a much more subtle, but no less powerful, definition.

A leader is someone who has influence.

The key word is *influence* – not power, not wealth, not status, not looks. Influence can equal leadership, for good or for bad. Of course, good leadership is what we're striving for, - *positively influencing the situation.* Anyone can be a leader– even if they don't have a title, occupation or demeanor that would necessarily imply it. CEOs are certainly considered leaders, but receptionists can be, too. Principals are definite leaders, but custodians can just as easily demonstrate leadership qualities in their jobs. While the "traditional" view of leadership usually includes the top of an organization or department, the best performing companies, clubs or sports teams have members who demonstrate leadership at every level. These "leaders without the title" have influence and therfore they lead.

You have influence. Therefore, YOU ARE A LEADER. Use your influence to positively impact what is going on around you. Lead well.