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The **Epitome** */I'pitəmi/*

Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Kedah Branch

Unleash the epitome of creative writers

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SYNOPSIS

The Academy of Language Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Kedah branch is proud to present the first issue of its e-magazine, The Epitome, as our focus to highlight our commitment to contribute to the areas of creative writing.

THE EPITOME aims to provide a platform for writers, educators, academicians, poet, and researchers to share their ideas, findings, knowledge, and experience, particularly on various creative writing genres - personal essays, poetry, short stories, songs, movie scripts, plays, and innovative projects in four different languages (English, Bahasa Melayu, Mandarin, and Arabic).

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear readers,

It is with great pleasure and immense pride that we, the Academy of Language Studies at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Kedah branch, extend our warmest welcome to all writers and readers to honor all 127 artistic masterpieces. This is indeed a tremendous achievement to commemorate our debut.

We are privileged to offer the platform for the writers to show their talents in creative writing in this magazine, which serves as a testament to our commitment to the area of personal essays, poetry, short stories, songs, movie scripts, plays, and innovative projects. Their invaluable contributions and unwavering commitment to academic excellence have played a vital role in shaping this magazine.

Thank you.

Best regards,

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PERSONAL ESSAY: WHAT MAKES A GREAT LEADER IN ACADEMIA? FIVE QUALITIES TO LOOK FOR

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Without exaggerating, I have seen a variety of leaders in various industries, but leadership in academia is a unique ball game. It takes a special blend of skills, knowledge, and personal attributes to lead and inspire academic communities towards success. Based on my observations and summations, we will explore the five utmost important qualities that make a great leader in academia and how they can contribute to a thriving academic community. First up, great academic leaders need a clear sense of purpose. They should have a vision for their institution that is inspiring, challenging, and achievable. They need to communicate this vision to the faculty, staff, and students, and get everyone on board with the common goal. They should also have a deep understanding of the institution's history, culture, and values and make sure their leadership aligns with these essential aspects.

Next, effective communication is a must-have quality for a great academic leader. They need to communicate effectively with everyone in the academic community. They should listen actively and empathetically, foster open and honest communication, and promote collaboration and teamwork. They should be able to convey their ideas and vision clearly and motivate and inspire their team.

Thirdly, a lifelong learning attitude is essential for great academic leaders. The academic world is always evolving, so a great leader needs to stay up-to-date with the latest trends and best practices in their field. They should encourage their team to pursue professional development and provide them with the resources and opportunities to do so. They should also be willing to learn from their mistakes and seek feedback from others to improve their leadership skills continuously.

Fourthly, inclusivity and respect are key qualities of a great academic leader. They should create a safe and welcoming environment for all members of the academic community, regardless of their

background, gender, race, or beliefs. They should promote diversity and inclusion and ensure that everyone feels valued and respected. They should also be open to different perspectives and encourage constructive debate and dialogue.

Finally, leading by example is a non-negotiable quality for great academic leaders. They should embody the values and principles they promote, demonstrate integrity, honesty, and ethical behaviour, and be accountable for their actions and decisions. They should take responsibility for any mistakes they make and be willing to take risks and make bold decisions that are in the best interest of the institution and its members.

To sum it up, great leadership in academia requires a combination of personal attributes, skills, and knowledge. A great leader needs to have a clear sense of purpose, exceptional communication skills, a lifelong learning attitude, be inclusive and respectful, and lead by example. These qualities will enable them to inspire, motivate, and guide their academic community towards success and excellence.

There you have it! Keep these five qualities in mind when you are looking for a great leader in the academic realm or maybe, for yourself to implement when becoming one in the future.



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