

## 5 Minute Activity - Lead Like a Duck

### **Know Your Job, Do Your Job**

Read the following excerpt from *Leadership Values of the Clovis Unified School District* (p. 32) and then discuss one of the prompts below.

When Is a Leader Like a Duck?

Rather than the beginning of a clumsy joke, there's a leadership lesson to be learned from watching a duck on a pond. Always tranquil and calm when seen from above, underwater, the duck's webbed feet are churning furiously to keep her body on course and to avoid hazards. Water just rolls off her feathers.

Great leaders are like ducks: calm and professional on the surface, letting unwarranted criticism slide off their backs, and moving with speed and purpose to remain focused on their objectives. Calm breeds calm, and good leaders know how to project calm confidence at all times.

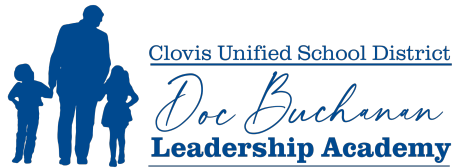
The article "Lead Like a Duck to Develop a Team of Leaders, pairs nicely with the Clovis question, "When is a Leader Like a Duck?" (The article is included in resources but not necessary to complete the prompts.)

### **Prompts:**

*Emerging Leaders (101):* As a leader in CUSD have you ever displayed the characteristics of a Clovis duck? Explain when and why.

*Established Leaders (201):* The article *Lead Like a Duck...* begins by stating, "Initially, success is measured through competence in the business basics. At some point, however, continued success is determined by your leadership skills and your ability to develop leaders. In today's work environment we need all team players to inspire others, think like a leader, and lead others in their sphere of influence even without formal authority. Share some of your successes in different positions you have held. As a leader, have you taken the time to mentor others? If so, discuss how you mentored and if the mentee went on to leadership roles.

*Tenured Leaders (301):* The article *Lead Like a Duck...* describes four steps you can take to lead like a duck. Do you agree with the author's suggestions? Do you currently use any of the suggestions? If so, discuss which ones and if it is successful. Explain how you knew it was successful. Is there a suggestion you would like to implement? Discuss which one and explain why.



Four ways to lead like a duck and achieve success:

D – Display and Duplicate. *Display* an inviting image of a leader and do your job in a way others can *duplicate*.

U – Understand your team’s fears and concerns.

C – Convey confidence in their leadership abilities.

K – Kick into high gear and experience the thrill of team excellence.