



## **LEADERSHIP ARCHIVE**

### **Prepared for the Bachelor of Science in Communication and Leadership**

*Name and current title of the leader:* Eleanor Roosevelt, 1884-1962, former First Lady of the United States, U.S. Representative to the United Nations

*CV or resume here or at the end of this document:*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eleanor\\_Roosevelt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eleanor_Roosevelt), <https://www.biography.com/people/eleanor-roosevelt-9463366>

*Describe the nature of the organization, agency, or other structure being led by this person:*

She was married to Franklin Delano Roosevelt, President, and was the longest serving First Lady. Later in life after her husband's death she was a U.S. delegate to the U.N. and an activist for many social causes

*In what sense is this a leader for social improvement?*

She worked tirelessly for peace, civil rights including racial justice and women's equality. She is widely credited with bringing important social issues to her husband's attention.

*Describe in detail the challenges faced by this leader in communicating.....*

*Within the organization* The First Lady has no official position in government, and therefore has to create her own influence. This is a matter of knowing how to negotiate, how to use the mechanisms of power, and how to be influential on an interpersonal level.

*With the public* As First Lady she was widely admired. Later in life, her continued service and activism earned her further praise. She definitely had independent views of her own but often had to walk a fine line in expressing those views, given the connection to her husband. For instance, she was more in favor of civil rights than was FDR, but had to be careful in expressing those views so as not to alienate some of his supporters.

*Specify how those challenges arise from the management of knowledge and information*

A First Lady always has important confidential information, especially if she is influential with the President. She had to be on guard as to what sort of information to reveal in a very heavy public speaking schedule. As a representative to the U.N., she was also privy to government secrets, the knowledge of which she often could not reveal.

*Identify ethical challenges faced by this leader in communicating* Finding an ethical way forward when her views were not shared by her husband was sometimes a challenge. Her championship of civil rights and peace had definite ethical overtones.

*Which effective strategies of communication is this leader known for, especially in the management of knowledge and information?* She was known for being very articulate and forthright in her public communication. She presented herself as a genteel lady, which in fact was consistent with her upbringing and family background. Yet she could not appear as too elite.

*What are some weaknesses or shortcomings in this leader's style?* Speaking as a woman during her era was often a challenge. Many First Ladies were regarded as properly staying in the background and attending to family matters. These were not weaknesses on her part but were certainly hindrances on her effectiveness at times.

*Summarize, and then copy at the end of this document or in external links, some key examples of speeches, press releases, blogs, and so forth that illustrate the leader's ability to communicate well in managing knowledge and information:*

[https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/e/eleanor\\_roosevelt.html](https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/e/eleanor_roosevelt.html),  
<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/eleanorroosevelt.htm>,  
<http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/archives/collections/utteranceser.html>

*Summarize, and then copy at the end of this document or in external links, some key examples of news articles, online commentary, and so forth by the public that show reactions and critiques to the leader's attempts to communicate well in managing knowledge and information:*

<https://www.nytimes.com/topic/person/eleanor-roosevelt?mcubz=0>,  
<https://www.commentarymagazine.com/articles/eleanor-and-franklin-by-joseph-p-lash/>,  
<https://www2.gwu.edu/~erpapers/teaching/lesson-plans/notes-er-and-civil-rights.cfm>