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Introduction to the Teaching & Learning Section

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Teaching & Learning

Introduction to the Teaching & Learning Section

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“Images of Leadership” by Christopher Maxwell and Anne Greenhalgh shares a powerful exercise that uses the social constructionist approach to demonstrate that “leadership is a property of observers rather than leaders.” In this article we find that images of leadership are embedded in students’ consciousness and see how to surface those images in an interactive and iterative model of learning. The image generation takes place at the beginning of a required undergraduate management course when students are asked to select digital images of leadership. They are also asked to think about why these images resonate and the meaning of those images in terms of how we see leadership and what we expect from leaders. An important aspect of this assignment is the ongoing assessment of these images. As the course continues, each student is asked to reflect on how the image he or she selected is changing and how meaning of the symbol is evolving. This is an innovative approach to teaching leadership with a strong theoretical base and immediate usefulness to *OMJ* readers. The authors call this the *Images of Leadership* project and *OMJ* readers can make full use of the electronic nature of the journal to link to the images within the article.