

Hurricane Michael Followed by Covid: A Case Study on the Aftermath of Two Tragic Events at a High School in the Florida Panhandle.

Instructor's Guide

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Teacher Resources

This case study is designed to cover a 2–3-day period with students. The following will break down each day as a guide for an instructor planning on using this case study to aid Agriculture Educators or Extension Agents to understand the impacts of a Category 5 Hurricane and a worldwide pandemic on a secondary agriculture education program.

Synopsis:

This case study takes a closer look at the impacts a category 5 hurricane and worldwide pandemic can have on leadership within an educational organization. Specifically, the case study uses the 4 frames of leadership theory to give a holistic view of the leadership within the organization. The case study paints a picture of the condition of the school and the county the school resides in prior to the hurricane. This picture is then referenced as the study looks at the impacts the hurricane had on the students, teachers, and community. Additionally, the study identifies how leadership changed throughout the school due to the hurricane. While the impacts of the hurricane were catastrophic, this community was challenged more by the Covid pandemic. The case study illustrates the challenges administrators, teachers, and students faced and are still facing due to the damage both catastrophic events caused.

Learning Objectives:

- Students will summarize the experience of the Cottdale High School agriculture program after Hurricane Michael and Covid-19.
- Students will analyze the same experience using the Four Frames of Leadership and report their findings using a PowerPoint.
- Students will synthesize results into a 1-page essay
- Students will gain experience with the aftermath of catastrophic hurricanes and will prepare their programs for similar circumstances.

Discussion outline/Question set:

The following are discussion topics that should aid in classroom discussion prior to students starting their group project and individual essay.

1. If you had to create a chain of command in terms of authority for Cottdale high school, what would it look like?
2. In times of distress, how can a leader play a key role in the future success of the organization?
3. Who were the identified leaders mentioned in the case study? Can you think of any other leaders who were not mentioned, but played a significant role during the reconstruction of the school and community during either of the catastrophes?

4. What steps were taken by leaders within this organization to increase morale and participation? What additional elements needed to be considered by leaders that would have benefited all within the organization that was not mentioned in the case study?
5. The four frames of leadership theory help an individual look at the organization holistically both prior and post hurricane. What additional leadership theories could be applied to gain additional understanding from the experiences?

Tips for resolving the Case Study:

One of the most important considerations when analyzing this case study is that it was created to look at how leadership adapts when presented with life altering events. With that in mind, the four frames leadership theory aids students in understanding a holistic view of the different leadership levels within the organization, which in this case is the school.

To be successful in their discussions, students must have a solid understanding of what the leadership frames are and how they help gain a full picture of this case study. Teachers should give ample time for discussion and questions.

Teachers should give time for students to discuss the questions associated with each leadership frame with their group. To advance discussion within the groups, the teacher may choose to take one question from each of the listed questions and answer it as a group.