One of the first things I do in a course (pertaining to leadership) is I ask students whether or not they would define themselves as a leader. The majority of the class more often than not is not comfortable with calling themselves a leader. When I push back on this they describe leaders to be generically somebody who is loud, outgoing, extroverted, usually white, male, and more often than not straight and cisgender. They understand in theory, that leadership skills can be developed however, they often share with me that there are some people who are just born leaders and they are not one of them. Because they have not had the opportunity to work on their leadership skills as much as they would have wished, do not have the experience in applying the theory to practice.

The first part of each course is focusing on looking inwards, and having students articulate, and develop a deeper understanding of their own values and their own strengths. Then in conjunction with going beyond leadership theory and creating a playground (in a way) to practice leadership through a of variety activities only then do the students begin to understand that they too can be a leader and develop the confidence to articulate that. It's really about unpacking leadership the way society has taught them what it means to be a leader and helping them to develop their own leadership strengths so that they see themselves as the valuable leaders that they are.

Again not exactly like driving a car so I’ll need to think more on this ☺