Assignment Purpose
LEAD 212: Introduction to Leadership Concepts has adapted the LHC into an assignment for two purposes:

Exploring Values
The LHC is an opportunity for students to explore and articulate their personal values, which become a basis for constructing their own leadership philosophy.

Creating a learning community is a key feature of the LEAD 212 class. Whether taken as a first-year seminar, in smaller class of 40 students, or in a large lecture with breakouts, students and faculty are challenged to foster a sense of community. This is accomplished not only through a shared space and common language, but through shared practices (Wenger, 1998).

Assignment Description
• Students are asked to reflect on and identify key life experiences in the context of leadership, and document a series of events that helped shape the type of leader they are today.
• Students creatively visualize their lived experiences in a timeline format. (see samples).
• Students reflect on the lessons learned from said event and assign a value to it.
• The identification of values in relation to experience helps to shape students’ personal leadership philosophies.
• Additionally, many of the reflective assignments students are asked to write later in the class emphasize the use of personal examples.
• Students develop critical thinking skills as they reflect on their lives and personally connect concrete experiences with the leadership theories and models introduced in this course.

Assigned Value: Family
The LHC gave students the opportunity to express themselves in their own versions of creativity, allowing us to tap into not only the “what” but the “how” of their presentation. The LHC also allows them to look back on their lives and see how their experiences have shaped their current styles of leadership. This awareness helps them understand why they hold the values and convictions they hold, and how relationships and experiences impact their own and others’ abilities to lead.

- Dean Eckhoff, Class Leader, Fall 2012

Assigned Value: Education
The LHC presentations played a huge role in getting my students to “open up” and feel comfortable sharing ideas and thoughts with each other. The assignment provides an easy vehicle for students to talk about themselves—a concept that students appreciate but that can be difficult to facilitate. With the LHC, it’s easy to get students learning about each other and feeling as if they’re a valued individual whose voice matters in the community.

- Brett Seidel, Class Leader, Fall 2012

Assigned Value: Participation
References:
• LHC Samples used with students’ permission.