

If I Were the Founder

Rebecca · VC Level 2 · 1033rd Meeting · August 4, 2026

Dear fellow Toastmasters and distinguished guests, my speech today is a themed assignment. Let's talk about leadership.

What is leadership? According to the official website: *Effective leaders empower others to accomplish personal goals and contribute to the successful completion of group objectives.*

Do you notice the distinction here: goals versus objectives? They are not exactly the same thing. A goal is the destination a person wants to reach; it's broad, aspirational, and often personal. An objective, on the other hand, is a specific, measurable step you take to get there.

Now, let me turn to a practical issue that concerns all of us.

These wonderful photos capture every successful meeting of our Shenzhen Toastmasters Club. Each of us chooses to join Shenzhen Toastmasters Club for different reasons — whether it's to practice public speaking, improve English, gain fresh perspectives, or make new friends. Whatever your goal may be, one thing is certain: our club must consistently host high-quality meetings. That's what attracts and retains outstanding members and brings in new brilliant insights and wonderful stories. Do you agree?

Imagine that I were the President — or even the Founder — of Shenzhen Toastmasters Club. My objective would be to ensure that every Tuesday evening meeting has all roles enthusiastically filled, and each session maintains consistent high quality. How would I lead?

Let's explore different leadership styles.

AFFILIATIVE

The first style: Affiliative. This is a style that resonates with me personally. It inspires a shared vision among all members and pays close attention to everyone's emotional needs.

Dear all, if you agree that high-quality regular meetings are significant to our club, if you want to achieve your personal goals by leveraging the stage, if you want to get the most out of your membership fees, please attend our meetings as often as possible and take on meeting roles. You'll gain a lot.

ALTRUISTIC

Now, let's look at other leadership styles. Altruistic. This style is about serving others. I am truly motivated by our officer teams, for their time and energy dedicated to the club. Their behind-the-scenes efforts make the club a success.

AUTHORITATIVE & BUREAUCRATIC

There are other leadership styles like Authoritative and Bureaucratic. These are generally not a good fit for our club environment. We have no formal authority or hierarchy here; what we share is passion and mutual respect.

COACHING

Then there is also Coaching. In our club, we have a mentorship program. Before I joined, my mentor Min invited me for a coffee. We had a pleasant chat that helped me clarify what I want to achieve here. For your information, the club covers the cost of mentorship coffee once a month.

There are many leadership styles, and a good leader can flexibly apply different styles in different circumstances. Above is my sharing of overview of leadership styles as defined by Toastmasters.

I'd like to share one more personal viewpoint. Some people may think leadership requires a title or a team. To me, leadership is about having a clear direction and inspiring others to walk alongside with you, even if only for a short journey.

I have always held this view: each person is like a company. We are the founder of "Me, Inc." It is our power and responsibility to define its mission, vision, and values, and to lead this company toward its goals.

In the age of AI, technology can further empower our abilities. Let's understand leadership, learn it, and practice it, to achieve greater success!