

Leadership Equals Character: *Words to live by.....*

Assertiveness	Generosity	Reliability
Commitment	Helpfulness	Respect
Confidence	Honesty	Responsibility
Cooperation	Humility	Self-Discipline
Creativity	Integrity	Service
Determination	Kindness	Thankfulness
Enthusiasm	Patience	Trustworthiness

The 9 Traits that Define Great Leadership By Peter Economy

To motivate your team to achieve the highest levels of performance (and create an extraordinary organization in the process) here are the qualities you should model every day. Many leaders are competent but few qualify as remarkable. If you want to join the ranks of the best of the best, make sure you embody all these qualities all the time. It isn't easy, but the rewards can be truly phenomenal.

1. Awareness - there is a difference between bosses and workers. Leaders understand the nature of this difference and accept it. They conduct themselves in a way that sets them apart from their employees--not in a manner that suggests they are better than others, but in a way that permits them to retain an objective perspective on everything that's going on in their organization.

2. Decisiveness – Leaders understand that in certain situations, difficult and timely decisions must be made in the best interests of the entire organization, decisions that require a firmness, authority, and finality that will not please everyone. They also know when not to act unilaterally but instead foster collaborative decision-making.

3. Empathy- Extraordinary leaders praise in public and address problems in private. The best leaders guide employees through challenges, always on the lookout for solutions to foster the long-term success of the organization. Rather than making things personal when they encounter problems, or assigning blame to individuals, leaders look for constructive solutions and focus on moving forward.

4. Accountability- Extraordinary leaders take responsibility for everyone's performance, including their own. When things are going well, they praise. When

problems arise, they identify them quickly, seek solutions, and get things back on track.

5. Confidence- Not only *are* the best leaders confident, but their confidence is contagious. People are naturally drawn to them, seek their advice, and feel more confident as a result. When challenged, they don't give in too easily, because they know their ideas, opinions and strategies are well-informed and the result of much hard work.

6. Optimism- The very best leaders are source of positive energy. They communicate easily. They are intrinsically helpful and genuinely concerned for other people's welfare. They always seem to have a solution and always know what to say to inspire and reassure. They avoid personal criticism and pessimistic thinking, and look for ways to gain consensus and get people to work together efficiently and effectively as a team.

7. Honesty- Strong leaders treat people how they want to be treated. They are extremely ethical and believe that honesty, effort, and reliability form the foundation of success.

8. Focus- Extraordinary leaders plan ahead and they are supremely organized. They think through multiple scenarios and the possible impacts of their decisions, while considering viable alternatives and making plans and strategies--all targeted toward success. They communicate their plans to key players and have contingency plans in the event last-minute changes require a new direction (which they often do).

9. Inspiration- Put it all together and what emerges is a picture of the truly inspiring leader: someone who communicates clearly, concisely, and often, and by doing so motivates everyone to give their best all the time.