

The 8 Steps to Effective leadership

Leadership is a term that is used to identify and describe someone in a position of authority. Although, does being in a position of authority automatically make someone a leader? Not a chance! We can all think of people who are in positions of leadership who have no clue how to *lead* a pack. In fact, I bet we could learn what not to do just by watching most of them.

Leadership is not inherent, it is a skill, such as learning how to play the guitar, kite surfing, or playing golf. Most people can identify a strong leader when they see one, yet they often have a hard time defining what being a leader actually means. I have learned that there are several specific qualities that great leaders exhibit.

We all *lead* to some extent, but if you desire to become a more effective leader of your business, team, family or of yourself, here are the 8 steps you need to master.

1. **Share Your Vision** – Leading requires a vision and the ability to clearly and passionately articulate your vision. When you are emotionally engaged with your team, a mutually shared vision can transcend an average business to a world-class one. A company who is vision centric creates a strong culture that attracts a following of people that believe in what you believe in.
2. **Take Action** – Nothing starts till you do. Many dreams die on the vine because of a lack of action. Procrastination is the killer of dreams and is driven by uncertainty and doubt. Overcoming procrastination requires a strong purpose. “When *your purpose* is big enough the how becomes easy.”
3. **Being Of High Integrity** – Your actions speak volumes about your beliefs. What you do is more important than what you say. A congruency of action is essential to effective leadership. A leader will not just tell the way but show the way. Nothing undermines leadership more than a lack of integrity.
4. **Remain Steady In The Face Of Adversity** – The one thing you count on is adversity. When life’s challenges occur and adversity knocks at your door how do you show up? Are you steady as a rock and a calming voice or do you contribute to the chaos? The individual who shows courage and strength will gain respect and reveal themselves as a trusted leader.
5. **Dare To Be Remarkable** – A team becomes inspired when they are lead by someone who see’s more in them than they could have ever imagined. Most people want to be challenged. They are excited to be part of a big vision. High achievers are naturally attracted to leaders who encourage them to dream big. This is the secret formula for a world-class business.
6. **Challenge The Status Quo** – Good enough is never good enough! This is what great leaders know. They understand when to push the envelope and

push the team to the next level. Effective leaders strive for excellence while understanding perfection is an illusion. Why settle for mediocrity when greatness is your destiny?

7. **Invest In Yourself And Your Team** – Constant and never ending growth is the mantra for effective leaders. It is the job of the leader to be consistently learning. They surround themselves with coaches and teachers who are smarter and think bigger than them. They also invest in their teams. Effective leaders know a growing team, grows businesses.
8. **Grow More Leaders** – If you are not building and growing more leaders than you are failing. When we inspire the people around us to grow we are paying forward the power of leadership. Sometimes when people around us grow, they leave our team. This is a good thing. It means you have helped them identify their purpose. Great leaders mentor and build great leaders.

If you are experiencing any frustrations, begin by evaluating your leadership. Mastering these 8 steps is essential to becoming a great leader. All success in life and in business rises and falls on the shoulders of leadership.

Dr. Jay LaGuardia CCWP