

balancing Excellence & Ethics



To be a good leader, one needs more than just ethics, or *moral character*. Many ill-fated leaders have been respectful, responsible and trustworthy; however, they were unable to use time wisely, collaborate with others or organize priorities. Good leadership also requires *performance character*: striving for excellence and doing your best work. Consider these examples of performance character:

Think Outside The Box

- Take the perspective of another
- Solve problems efficiently and effectively
- Adapt to changing situations
- Exercise critical thinking
- Try different strategies
- Reverse course on a bad habit or plan
- Think entrepreneurially
- Be creative

Identify and Manage Your Priorities

- Benchmark current state or baseline starting point
- Establish a clear desired state or end-goal
- Identify essential drivers and preventers
- Be self-directed
- Use SMART Goals
- Use time effectively
- Organize and prioritize
- Know when and how to ask for help

Seek a Healthy Life Balance

- Pursue broad life goals
- Exercise regularly
- Eat healthy
- Engage in rejuvenating leisure activities
- Seek inner peace
- Take time to rest, reflect and rejuvenate
- Develop an appreciation of art, music and culture
- Use productive strategies for reducing stress

Make Excellence Your Goal

- Set internal standards of excellence
- Commit to hard work
- Commit to revise and improve
- Be aware and use relevant tools of a given trade
- Act with professionalism
- Communicate effectively
- Measure and improve effort and attitude
- Keep yourself motivated

Establish Productive & Positive Relationships

- Actively listen and take the perspective of others
- Make good friends and acquaintances
- Collaborate with others
- Lead others
- Work well with others in a team
- Influence others in a positive and productive manner
- Respectfully disagree
- Demonstrate personal and collective responsibility

Serve a Cause Greater Than Yourself

- Leave a group or organization better than you found it
- Look for causes that inspire you
- Identify and pursue win-win
- Serve others
- Join a team, club, or organization
- Visualize the impact of your actions on others
- Contribute to family, classroom and school
- Commit to global awareness and action

Know Yourself & Have a Go-To Ethical Code

- Know what you stand for
- Make ethical decisions
- Engage in fair competition
- Identify your core values
- Know your personal strengths of character
- Know your character weaknesses
- Develop an active conscience
- Take responsibility for your mistakes

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