



When You Become A Better Leader

You End Up With
Better Followers

5 Ways to Be A Better Leader

A recent article published on the Harvard Business Review website suggested that you can't be a good leader without self-awareness, and we need to take that to heart. When we are self-aware, we know our own strengths and weaknesses, so we are better able to understand what you need from those on our team to make the best decisions for our business.

So how does one become more self-aware, and thus, become a better leader? Here are some tips from the article we have also found to be effective:

1. **Meditate/Reflect.** Right before bed, or while you are making your morning/evening commute, or even while exercising or doing housework; whenever you have some time alone, take a few moments to breathe deeply and ask yourself: What are you trying to achieve? What are you doing that is working...and what isn't? What can you do to change? Don't forget to pat yourself on the back for what

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you are doing right!

2. **Keep a journal.** It is helpful to write down your goals and prioritize them, and you can look back at the end of a day, a week, a month, a year and see...not only what you accomplished, but evaluate whether or not a decision turned out as planned. If not, what would you do differently? What have you learned? Hard to imagine while you are on the run so much? Find an app to jot your thoughts on during the day. I use both "Inkpad" and "Evernote".
3. **Take personality tests.** Quizzes on Facebook and the like may seem cheesy, but tests like the [Myers-Briggs](#) and Predictive Index can help identify traits and characteristics that describe you. Are you more driven by passion or by action? Reflecting on these results can help you better understand yourself.
4. **Ask friends.** Have your friends play the role of a mirror and tell them you really want their honest observations about the kind of person you are. Make sure you find one who won't sugar coat the facts!
5. **Get feedback at work.** Formal, constructive feedback can help you to see your strengths and weaknesses. One of my goals for 2015 is to meet with my clients around their anniversary date, for coffee, to share thoughts on both sides of the house. This is important on several levels. It provides an opportunity to make sure we continue to be on the same page regarding expectations and allows me to share ideas I have about how they can grow. And it will provide an informal setting for that constructive feedback I need to better my business.

Remember, building self-awareness is something we need to work on our whole lives-- we're never "done." So, while these five tips can help you, they are really just tools to use on your journey.

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Client Spotlight: Cedarcrest Landscaping



At First Act Accounting, we define our success by how well we perform the “supporting role” we play for each of our valued clients. This issue, we’d like to give a virtual standing ovation to one of our very special clients, Jim Fisher at [Cedarcrest Landscaping](#).

Cedarcrest Landscaping is a landscape maintenance and fertilization company based out of Oxford, PA. The company has been providing high quality services to its customers since 2005, and they pride ourselves on achieving 100% customer satisfaction.

Owner Jim Fisher says, "Dawn from First Act Accounting has been providing services to Cedarcrest for the past couple of years. Since coming on board, Dawn has organized and structured my Quickbooks for a more efficient running operation. She is knowledgeable and professional and I feel confident in the services she provides for me."